



MUS 331
Piano Pedagogy I
Course Syllabus: Fall 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Libby Vanatta, instructor
Office Location:	Music Building 230
Office Hours:	See schedule posted outside of office door or set up appointment.
Phone:	972-352-8968 (texting is okay)
University Email Address:	libby.vanatta@tamuc.edu
Preferred communication:	Email
Reply response time:	within 24 hours

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact the instructor via email or set up an appointment to address your concerns as soon as possible.

Course Information

Course Description

A study of various methods and approaches to teaching piano, in class and/or studio environments. Through readings, class discussions, teaching demonstrations, and teaching observations, students will be provided with creative teaching strategies to instruct piano students from the beginning stages of piano study through the intermediate level.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Develop a teaching philosophy that outlines objectives and procedures applicable to private piano instruction.
2. Broaden knowledge of teaching techniques suitable for use in the private piano lesson for students of all ages.
3. Assess the different methods available for teaching beginning through intermediate level piano students.
4. Become familiar with the standard teaching repertoire for beginning through intermediate level piano students.
5. Develop teaching strategies for the instruction of sight-reading, harmonization, transposition, memorization, and other necessary skills.
6. Identify elements of quality teaching through the observation of master teachers.

Required Textbook

Professional Piano Teaching, 2nd edition, volume 1 - Jacobson (Alfred)
The Independent Piano Teacher's Studio Handbook - Klingenstein (Hal Leonard)
The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature - Magrath (Alfred)

Required Journals

American Music Teacher – available through membership to MTNA

Piano Inspires (magazine and website access) – available through membership to the Frances Clark Center

Course Requirements

Assessments

Assessment type, percentage of final grade, and relationship to student learning outcomes

Practicum Project	10%	SLO 2, 6
Lesson Plan Project	10%	SLO 2
Business Project	15%	SLO 1
Method Review Project	20%	SLO 3
Composition Project	20%	SLO 3, 5
Final Exam	25%	SLO 4, 5

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or below

Course Calendar

The course outline and calendar will be distributed in a separate document. It will be given as a hard copy at the first class meeting and available digitally on D2L.

Course and University Procedures / Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and events as required by the instructor. **Only one absence is allowed.** Additional absences will result in the deduction of 50 points from the final grade.

Failure to attend **mandatory events/activities** will result in the deduction of one letter grade from the final grade. These events/activities include but are not limited to the teaching of private lessons, observation of private lessons taught by others, Piano Academy recital, Fall Festival, etc. All mandatory events will be announced in class in advance.

The instructor reserves the right to drop a student from the course after four absences. Medical excuses and university-sponsored trips are acceptable reasons for missing class as long as documentation is provided.

Tardy and Early Exit

Tardiness after two will result in the lowering of the final grade by 5 points for each offense. Students leaving the classroom before class is dismissed will receive an absence for that day.

Late Work and Missed Exams

Late work will result in the reduction of one letter grade per day from original due date. Exams will not be made up if missed unless for instances of medical emergency, university cancellation, or prearrangements made in the case of university-sponsored trip.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures: [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu; online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.