



MUS 351
Barrier Piano Lessons
Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

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:	903-886-5286
University Email Address:	libby.vanatta@etamu.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. Contact information for adjunct instructors or teaching assistants associated with the course will be given at the first lesson and can be found on D2L.

Course Information

Course Description

MUS 351 is private instruction for advanced music majors in keyboard, vocal, instrumental, or composition majors. This course includes recitals and performance forums with teacher-directed student evaluations and instructions. All students must pass the upper division barrier examination prior to enrollment.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Play a vocalization accompaniment in every major key (minimum tempo of quarter note equals 76).
2. Play a four-part chorale at a reasonable tempo.
3. Play with good tone and steady pulse three of four parts from a representative piece in the choral repertoire (SAB or STB) given to the student in advance of the mid-term exam.
4. Play a piano solo at the equivalent level of Snell book 4 at performance tempo.
5. Play the accompaniment to a choral piece or a vocal solo at performance tempo.
6. Play with good tone and steady pulse all choral parts of a representative piece in the choral repertoire (SATB) given to the student in advance of the final exam.

Required Textbook

At the first lesson after music is chosen for the semester, a list of expected music purchases will be given to the student. Once the list is given, the student has two weeks to purchase the books. The teacher will provide photocopies of technical exercises, etudes, accompaniments, or any other individual pieces to be covered during the semester.

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods: Required Practice of Piano

Students are expected to practice daily for a minimum of forty-five minutes to one hour. It is almost impossible to “cram” at the last minute and perform well on the two evaluations in the course. The evaluations are performances, not written tests like those given in other classes. Students are not only expected to play the elements well, but to do so in a performance setting in front of multiple examiners. Daily preparation is the only way to overcome nerves and to give the best performance possible!

Piano Studio Recital

The *"Just for Fun" Piano Studio Recital* will be scheduled later in the semester at 6pm in the Recital Hall. Students are encouraged but not required to perform in the recital. Performances can include solos, duets, trios, quartets, accompaniments, etc.

Assessments

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

Attendance and preparation for lessons	30%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Mid-term performance	35%	SLO 1, 2, 3
Final performance	35%	SLO 4, 5, 6

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or below

The mid-term and final evaluations serve as the upper division proficiency exam for vocal majors. Students must pass the evaluations and the course with a minimum of 70% in order to complete the piano requirements for a vocal degree.

Course Calendar

Week 1-7 Regular instruction

Week 8 Mid-term evaluation

Week 9-15 Regular instruction

Week 16 Final evaluation

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 30-minute lessons and studio classes scheduled by the instructor. Only one absence is allowed. Each additional absence will lower the final grade by 50 points (half a letter grade). A student may be dropped from the course after four absences. Repeated tardiness will lower the final grade by 5 points for each instance. Lessons will be counted as a tardy if all necessary materials are not brought by the student. There is no regularly scheduled studio class for this course.

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

Lack of preparation is not an adequate excuse for rescheduling a lesson. Lessons will only be rescheduled in the case of a medical excuse or university sponsored trip when advanced notification is given. It is the student's responsibility to appropriately plan the activities of the week to complete adequate practice and come prepared to the lesson. Evaluation performances are scheduled for a specific day/time and will not be made up for any reason other than a verified medical event or university sponsored trip.

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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@etamu.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).

Musician Health and Safety

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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/rulesProcedures/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 ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.