



MUS 151-161
Minor Applied Organ
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Ethan Gainer
Classroom Location:	Music Building Rm. 132, TBD
Office Location:	Music Building Theory/Ear Adjunct Office
Office Hours:	Appointment Request by Email
Office Phone:	---
University E-mail:	Ethan.Gainer@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	24 - 48 hours

I will reply to myLEO emails within a 24-48 hour period of time during M-F. If I receive an email on Friday, I will reply on or before the next class day. I will give notice of days that I'll be out-of-the-office or unable to hold class to students' myLEO emails. It is a student's responsibility to monitor myLEO emails for class-related announcements and personal feedback. D2L will reflect communications from class/emails.

Course Curriculum

Required Materials:

-D2L/LMS (Learning Management System)

*Login using your same login as your email

-Staff Paper, Ruler, & Pencils

-Organ shoes are recommended but not required

Course Description

Minor Applied Organ is private instruction for music majors on the organ as a secondary instrument. The course studies practical organ skills including pedal and manual technique, registration, disposition, hymn-playing, and historically informed performance practice. Other topics include the history of the instrument over the past two millennia and strategies for performance on an unfamiliar instrument.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to accomplish the following in each category.

Repertoire:

Perform basic repertoire from J.S. Bach, French Classical, Romantic, 20th-Century, and modern periods.

Improvisation:

Demonstrate the ability to provide music on demand for a worship service.

Hymn Playing:

Demonstrate the ability to perform hymns in a manner suiting the instrument and with sensitivity to the text.

Attendance Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is expected. The student's attendance grade is calculated by the number of times present divided by the total number of class meetings. Students who are present but do not engage in the discussion may not receive attendance at the discretion of the instructor.

The University Catalog states, "Students are expected to be present for all class meetings of any course for which they are enrolled." Sporadic attendance is a waste of your intellectual and financial resources.

Excused absences, as defined by the Catalog, need to be prearranged with the instructor at least 24 hours in advance. I prefer email communication.

Students that have a total of 6 absences, whether excused or not, will either earn a failing grade or will be dropped from the course through means of an administrative drop at the discretion of the instructor due to excessive absences.

Illness Policy

A&M-Commerce recommends the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Use of Computers and Cell Phones

No computers or cell phones are allowed during class. Technology should be silenced and stored away out of respect for the learning environment, unless approved as an accommodation through Student Disabilities Services. Academic Research continues to show the benefits of taking notes by hand as the best way to facilitate memory, attention, and learning.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements. **Technology will be utilized outside of class time.**

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

The following statements are required by either University policy, state, or federal law:

Course and University Procedures / Policies

University Mission Statement:

East Texas A&M University nurtures and educates for success through access to academic research, and service programs of high quality.

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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.

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, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Waters Library, Room 132

908.886.5150, or 903.886.5835, phone

903.468.8148, fax

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Non-Discrimination Statement:

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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).

Mental Health Policy

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit: www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty