



MUS 351
Minor Applied
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

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 class meeting and can be found on D2L.

Course Information

Course Description

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) Graduating students will demonstrate music literacy in solo and ensemble performance, including application of appropriate performance practice technique and expressive nuance.
- 2) Play a vocalization accompaniment in every major key (minimum tempo of quarter note equals 76). Vocalizations are covered in lessons as warm-ups and are not included on the mid-term or final exams.
- 3) Play a four-part chorale at a reasonable tempo.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Play a piano solo at the equivalent level of Snell book 4 at performance tempo.
- 6) Play the accompaniment to a choral piece or a vocal solo at performance tempo.
- 7) 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 exercise, 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 jury. The mid-term and final is a performance, not a written test like those given in other classes. Students are not only expected to play the elements on the exam 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!

Assessments

Attendance and preparation for lessons	10%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Mid-term performance	20%	SLO 3, 4, 5
Final performance	70%	SLO 6, 7

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. You must pass the course with a minimum of 70% in order to complete the piano requirements for the vocal degree.

Course Calendar

Week 1-7	Regular instruction
Week 8	Mid-term evaluation: chorale, three-part open score, and piano solo
Week 9-15	Regular instruction
Week 16	Final evaluation: choral accompaniment and four-part open score

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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.

Exam 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.

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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

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.

University Mission Statement

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

ETAMU Attendance

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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 POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

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

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and 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.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url: _

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

Nondiscrimination Notice

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.

Technology Requirements

LMS:

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

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=universitymenu

Access and Navigation

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Health and Wellness

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](#)

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.