

AMUS 3221 - APPLIED PIANO

Dr. Ruth Morrow, FA C117K, 397-4789 (office), 940-867-2760 (cell);
ruth.morrow@msutexas.edu
Fall 2024

Syllabus

Course Description:

Lessons are designed to augment your acquisition and development of keyboard skills as well as further your understanding and presentation of literature for the piano and its precursors. Your progress depends on the attitude and awareness you give to the ideas presented in the lesson during your outside practice time. The amount of work you feel is being asked of you for these lessons reflects the amount of diligence and discipline to which you are willing to submit.

Materials and Attendance:

Each student will receive one private lesson per week. You are expected to procure all music (imslp.org or purchase) studied for the semester. You will be allowed one absence of private session without any reason necessary. Please let me know in advance (if possible) that you will not be attending your lesson. More than one unexcused absence will factor negatively into the semester grade. Absence at more than three lessons may result in your being dropped from the class.

Additionally, we meet as a class as scheduled in the Chapel, the piano lab, or Akin Auditorium (depending on class assignments/discussion). Attendance at studio class is expected and will factor into your semester grade. Should you not come to studio class for 5+ weeks, you cannot receive an "A" in piano (unless you have a previously approved class conflict).

I make up only the lessons I miss. If you know you cannot attend a lesson, please work out a trade with another student as possible.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

- grades on semester jury
- improvement within the semester
- completion of assigned literature
- willingness to perform in piano class and on recitals
- attendance (as discussed above)

Conduct:

Lesson and/or studio class behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the lesson/class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class.

REQUIRED REPERTOIRE LIST

Piano students enrolled in AMUS 3221 may be music education majors, piano primary in the B.A., or using piano as their secondary instrument. Students should prepare 1-2 selections per semester, with repertoire not covered as listed below needing instructor approval for study.

Classification of piano works by difficulty is taken from <https://www.pianolibrary.org/>. The difficulty scale page (<https://www.pianolibrary.org/about/difficulty-scale/>) gives representative levels by ½ degree from 1 to 5 (9 levels) and the header Works by Difficulty (<https://www.pianolibrary.org/difficulty/>) then links to each level with composers listed in alphabetical order. While this is by no means an exhaustive list of composers or repertoire, there is more than enough at each level to allow both breadth and depth.

It is expected that music education majors and piano primary in the B.A. play at or above level 2.5 in their third year of study. Students using piano as their secondary instrument are expected to have passed Piano Proficiency requirements and to now be at a level 2 or above.

Teaching Repertoire

Students are expected to play below their level of challenge to improve their sight-reading skills, work on focus and good practice habits, and to expand their knowledge of teaching repertoire. The minimum for music education majors and piano primary in the B.A. is one piece below level per semester; however, it is hoped that students would approximate one piece per month. Additionally, those who are already proficient at sight-reading may wish to challenge themselves with up to one piece per week. Students should be mindful to pick pieces from the various periods of music to obtain a broad perspective of the range of piano literature.

Performance Repertoire

Music education majors and piano primary in the B.A. need to pick one piece/movement from their level per semester in consultation with their applied instructor. This piece will be learned, memorized (as possible and needed for genre), and performed in Recital Attendance, jury, and possibly in Studio Recital. Do not play something from the same time period in both semesters of 3221. Additionally, students need to consult with their instructor towards their half recital, which will take place during their senior year.