



Course Syllabus: Piano

Fain College of Fine Arts

AMUS 1221 Section 103

Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course offers private piano instruction, with weekly lessons and individualized repertoire. It allows students the opportunity to engage in the selection of pieces, ask questions, and grow as musicians and individuals. In order to get the most of the course, it is necessary to dedicate significant time to out-of-class practice and preparation.

Course Objectives

This is a private lesson with individualized objectives, although all students will meet the following requirements:

- Perform all major and minor scales
- Harmonize and transpose a simple melody
- Perform a prepared solo piece
- Sight-read appropriate-level pieces

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Chosen by the student and instructor on an individual basis.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of

work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Attendance	25
Weekly Practice and Improvement	25
Completion of Assigned Pieces/Competencies	30
Jury	20
Performance	10

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90
B	80 to 90
C	70 to 80
D	60 to
F	Less than 600

Homework

All homework will be in the form of pieces, exercises, and competencies assigned to students for practice outside of class.

Projects Required

All projects will be performance-based, such as pieces and technical exercises given for the student to practice.

Final Exam

The final exam will be the semester jury. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in front of a supportive and encouraging faculty.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: September 16, 2026.
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026.
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

This is a private lesson, so your attendance is extremely important every week. If for any reason you need to miss or reschedule, please reach out to me at least 24 hours in advance. In the event of an emergency, let me know as soon as possible, and we can try to reschedule as time allows.

Online Computer Requirements

This is a face-to-face applied lesson, so very little use will be made of D2L. You will need access to log on and view your grades, and possibly music or assignments posted there.

Instructor Class Policies

In order to get the most out of your lessons, it is necessary to put in a considerable amount of time outside of class. Daily practice is the foundation of musical progress, so make every effort to practice on a daily basis if at all possible. We will create your assignments and repertoire based upon the progress you make, so the more effort you put forth, the more exciting skills you can develop and the more fun pieces you can play!

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants,

loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law

for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule is flexible and individualized for each student.

Texas Competencies

Domain IV: Music Classroom Performance	
<i>Competency 009- The teacher demonstrates knowledge of methods and techniques for playing musical instruments.</i>	
A. Understands performance skills and appropriate playing techniques (e.g., bowing, fingering, embouchure, rudiments) for a range of instruments (e.g., band, orchestral, classroom).	We discuss these concepts in lessons and focus particularly on skills the student may be struggling with.
B. Understands proper health techniques to use during instrumental	Proper playing position and technique are another focus of lessons, with

rehearsals and performances (e.g., posture, hand position, instrument maintenance).	targeted exercises to help students in weak areas.
C. Selects appropriate instrumental literature to enhance technical skills and provide musical challenges.	Students will develop skills in selecting repertoire by working with the instructor to find appropriate pieces.
D. Understands standard terminology used in communicating about students' musical skills and performances.	Students develop and use a vocabulary of musical terminology by encountering and learning the terms in pieces and exercises.
E. Knows how to offer meaningful prescriptions for correcting performance problems and errors (e.g., intonation, vibrato, articulation, tone production) and understands the constructive use of criticism when evaluating musical skills or performances.	As students develop their skills and correct their own errors, they will gain experience in diagnosing problem areas and helping others improve, as well.

Repertoire List

This is a list of possible repertoire selections, divided into approximate levels. This list is by no means comprehensive, and other pieces may be selected with the approval of the instructor. Students should complete at least one piece from each category before graduation.

Freshman

- J.S. Bach, *French Suite*, BWV 812 to 817
- Bartók, *Sonatina*, Sz. 55
- Beethoven, *Sonata*, Opp. 2 to 26
- Chopin, *Nocturnes* (any)
- Chopin, *Polonaise* (any)
- Dello Joio, *Diversions*
- Debussy, *Children's Corner*
- Eunadi, *Life*
- Eunadi, *Nuvole Bianche*
- Haydn, *Sonata* (any)
- Liszt, *Consolations*
- Mendelssohn, *Rondo Capriccioso*, Op. 14
- Milhaud, *La Muse Ménagère*, Op. 245
- Mozart, *Sonata*, K. 282, K. 545
- Mozart, *Variations* (any)
- Muczynski, *Fables*
- D. Scarlatti, *Sonata* (any)
- Schumann, *Papillons*, Op. 2

- Villa-Lobos, *A Prole de Bebe*, No. 1
- Zhang Zhao, *Two Folk Songs*

Sophomore

- J.S. Bach, *Prelude and Fugue from The Well-Tempered Clavier*, BWV 846 to 893
- Bartók, *Allegro barbaro*
- Bartók, *Rumanian Folk Dances*, Sz. 56
- Beethoven, *Sonata*, Opp. 27 to 90
- Beethoven, *Variations* (any)
- Carreño, *Un baile n rêve: fantaisie-caprice*, op. 26
- Chopin, *Ballade* (any)
- Chopin, *Scherzo* (any)
- Chopin, *Waltz* (any)
- Debussy, *Pour le piano*
- Gottschalk, *The Banjo*
- Ginastera, *Danzas argentinas*, Op. 2
- Granados, *Twelve Spanish Dances*, Op. 37
- Guang, Ren, *Colorful Clouds Chasing the Moon*
- Haydn, *Sonata* (any)
- Liszt, *3 Concert Etudes and 2 Concert Etudes*
- Liszt, *Hungarian Rhapsody* (any)
- Mendelssohn, *Variations Sérieuses*, Op. 54
- Mozart, *Sonata* (any)
- Mozart, *Concerto* (any)
- Debussy, *Pour le piano*
- Ravel, *Pavane pour une infante défunte*
- Prokofiev, *Four Pieces*, Op. 4
- D. Scarlatti, *Sonata* (any)
- Schubert, *Sonata* (any, except for the last three)
- Schumann, *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 12
- Tchaikovsky, *The Seasons*, Op. 37a

Junior

- J.S. Bach, *English Suite*, BWV 806 to 811
- J.S. Bach, *Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue*, BWV 903
- J.S. Bach, *Fantasy and Fugue*, BWV 904
- Beethoven, *Sonata*, Opp. 27 to 90
- Beethoven, *Concerto*, Op. 15, Op. 19, and Op. 37
- Schubert, *Wanderer Fantasy*, Op. 15
- Chopin, *Études*, Op. 10 and Op. 25
- Chopin, *Preludes*, Op. 28
- Chopin, *Ballade* (any)

- Chopin, *Barcarolle*, Op. 60
- Schumann, *Carnaval*, Op. 9
- Liszt, *Grande Études de Paganini*
- Liszt, *Spanish Rhapsody*
- Liszt, *Ballade No. 2*
- Brahms, *Sonata*, Opp. 1, 2, and 5
- Brahms, *Variations on a theme by Handel*, Op. 24
- Mussorgsky, *Pictures at the Exhibition*
- Debussy, *Préludes*, Book 1
- Scriabin, *Études*, Op. 8
- Rachmaninoff, *Morceaux de fantaisie*, Op. 3
- Rachmaninoff, *Six moments musicaux*, Op. 16
- Ravel, *Sonatine*
- Bartók, *Suite*, Op. 14
- Prokofiev, *Toccata*, Op. 11
- Prokofiev, *Sonata*, Opp. 1, 14, 28, 29, and 38/135
- Adams, *China Gates*

Senior

- Albeniz, *Iberia* (any books)
- J.S. Bach, *Partita*, BWV 825 to 830
- J.S. Bach, *Toccata*, BWV 910 to 916
- Bartók, *Sonata*
- Bartók, *Out of Doors*
- Beach, Amy, *Variations on Balkan Themes*
- Beethoven, *Sonata*, Opp. 101 to 111
- Beethoven, *Concerto*, Op. 58 and Op. 73
- Brahms, *Fantasiien Op. 116, 3 Intermezzi Op. 117, and Klavierstücke Opp. 118 and 119*
- Brahms, *Variations on a theme by Paganini*, Op. 35
- Schubert, *Sonata*, D. 958, 959, and 960
- Chopin, *Études*, Op. 10 and Op. 25
- Chopin, *Sonata*, Op. 35 and Op. 58
- Chopin, *Concerto*, Op. 11 and Op. 21
- Corigliano, *Fantasia on an Ostinato*
- Debussy, *Études*
- Debussy, *Préludes*, Book 2
- Debussy, *Estampes*
- Debussy, *Images*, Book 1 and Book 2
- Ginastera, *Sonata No. 1*, Op. 22
- Gottschalk, *Souvenir de Porto Rico*
- Granados, *Goyescas*

- Liszt, *Études d'exécution transcendante (any)*
- Liszt, *Concert Paraphrase on Rigoletto by Verdi*
- Liszt, *Années de pèlerinage, Deuxième année: Italie- No. 7 Après une lecture du Dante*
- Liszt, *Sonata*
- Prokofiev, *Sonata*, Opp. 82, 83, 84, and 103
- Rachmaninoff, *Preludes*, Op. 23 and Op. 32
- Rachmaninoff, *Études-Tableaux*, Op. 33 and Op. 39
- Rachmaninoff, *Sonata No. 2* Op. 36
- Rachmaninoff, *Variations on a theme by Corelli*, Op. 42
- Ranjbaran, Behzad, *Night in a Persian Garden*
- Ravel, *Miroirs*
- Ravel, *Le Tombeau de Couperin*
- Roustom, Kareem, *Aleppo Songs*
- Schumann, *Sonata*, Opp. 11, 21, and 14
- Schumann, *Fantasy*, Op. 17
- Scriabin, *Sonata*, Opp. 6, 19, 23, 30, and 53
- Shostakovich, *Preludes and Fugues*, Op. 87
- Yiqiang, Sun, *Spring Dance*
- Zhao, Zhang, *Pi Huang*