

AMUS 4961 – Senior Recital: Education or B.A.

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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 in Senior Recital
- 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 4961 may be music education majors or piano primary in the B.A. 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 3 in their fourth year of study.

Performance Repertoire & Senior Recital

Music education majors and piano primary in the B.A. need to master the two to five pieces or movements from their level chosen in consultation with their applied instructor for their 25-minute Senior Recital. These pieces will be learned, memorized (as possible and needed for genre), and performed in Recital Attendance and possibly in Studio Recital in addition to the Senior Recital. There is a Recital Preview at least three weeks prior to the selected date of the Senior Recital which must be passed before the public Senior Recital can be performed. More information on this may be found in the Midwestern State University Department of Music Handbook.

Teaching Repertoire

While it is expected that most time and attention will be given to the repertoire for the Senior Recital, continued development of sight-reading and acquisition of knowledge of teaching pieces will be beneficial within the semester and throughout professional life.