

MUSC 3823 Pedagogy of Music

MSU Texas

Department of Music

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Office hours TBD and by appointment

Course Description

This course prepares participants for the profession of teaching in schools, training institutes, and/or career of independent music teachers. The course is set up to introduce a developing concept of music pedagogy examining teaching methods and learning sequences for music students at all levels. This includes an introduction to instructional methods, a survey of method books, resources, repertoire, conducting, and rehearsal techniques for secondary ensembles. Students will develop Instructional skills through overstating, private teaching, self-monitoring pedagogical practices and peer/student/instructor evaluations.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

The objectives of this course are to:

1. Prepare students for the professional world of teaching and performing
2. Develop a personal teaching philosophy
3. Develop knowledge and skills to coherently teach private lessons and chamber ensembles
4. Understand assessment and how to implement it in teaching.
5. Create lesson plans and develop teaching strategies.

Student Assessment

Each student will be graded on five projects to be completed throughout the semester. All projects are due on Tuesday, May 3rd at 5:00pm. Each project is worth 20% of the final grade.

1. Musicianship Self-improvement (20%)

Choose one aspect of your own technique or musicianship that you wish to improve over 10 weeks this semester. Create an initial proposal for your plans for improvement. Then keep a written practice log and a video library demonstrating your progress. Write a 2-page assessment about the project that includes information on how the process worked, what you would change for next time, and whether you met your goals or not.

2. Teaching Private Lessons (20%)

Video yourself teaching a lesson with one student. Then watch the video and take notes on what you can improve and what you plan to teach in the next lesson. Repeat this process for a total of 4 lessons. After the fourth lesson, write a 2-page summary of the project that includes answers to the following questions:

1. How did you improve as a teacher over the course of the semester?
2. Did the student improve and in what ways?
3. What else did you learn from observing yourself?

Include your notes from each of the first 3 lessons in the final submission.

3. Interviews (20%)

Conduct three interviews with different music teachers that you admire. Inquire about their teaching philosophies, what they wish they knew before they started teaching, and what advice they would give to a young teacher. Also include some of your own questions and don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions to their responses. After conducting the interviews, summarize what you learned in a 3-page paper.

4. Teaching Philosophy (20%)

Write a 1-page teaching philosophy that is specific to you and your ideas about teaching.

5. Job Application Materials (20%)

Find a job posting for a position you would be interested in pursuing. Design a resume, cover letter and curriculum vitae specific to this job posting. A resume is a 1- to 2-page document highlighting your most relevant qualifications specific to the job posting. A cover letter is letter addressed to the person hiring for the position detailing your interest in the job and some of your most impressive qualities. A curriculum vitae is a longer document that details all of your experiences that are at all relevant to the position you are applying for. The purpose of all three of these documents is to pique the interest of the search committee or hiring coordinator so that they give you an interview.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Less than 60%

Recommended Course Schedule

Since this course will be conducted as an independent study, the proposed course schedule below is to be used only as a guide to make sure each student maintains an appropriate pace for completing the required assignments.

	Suggested Work
Week 1	Design your plan for the musicianship self-improvement project
Week 2	Find your private lesson student and schedule your first lesson
Week 3	Finalize musicianship self-improvement project and begin record-keeping.
Week 4	Teach first private lesson; construct list of interview questions
Week 5	Find job posting for job application materials project
Week 6	Begin outlining teaching philosophy; teach second private lesson
Week 7	Contact teachers for interview project; continue compiling data for musicianship self-improvement project (should be at least week 5)
Week 8	Teach third private lesson; begin constructing job application materials
Week 9	Submit teaching philosophy for critique and edits; conduct first interview
Week 10	Conduct second and third interviews
Week 11	Submit job application materials for critique and edits; finish week 10 of musicianship self-improvement project
Week 12	Last week to teach final private lesson; begin reflection paper; begin edits on teaching philosophy
Week 13	Compile data for musicianship self-improvement project and begin paper
Week 14	Compile data for musicianship self-improvement project and begin paper
Week 15	Complete edits on job application documents; complete interview paper
Finals Week	Tie up any loose ends and submit all projects by Tuesday at 5:00pm

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2019-2020](#)

COVID-19 Statement

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physical or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Conduct Statement

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the 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, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not of the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class is caught plagiarizing, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the Creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonesty act will be sanctioned appropriately.

Student Privacy Statement

Federal law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to parties outside the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the instructor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents without the proper release from students.

Campus Carry Statement

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry Rules/Policies](#).

The instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus for any reason. The student will receive sufficient notice of any changes. By remaining enrolled in this course, the student indicates acceptance and understanding of the syllabus.