

# **AMUS 1221 - APPLIED PIANO**

Dr. Ruth Morrow, FA C117K, 397-4789 (office), 940-867-2760 (cell);  
ruth.morrow@msutexas.edu  
Spring 2022

## ***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.

### ***Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices:***

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

### ***Special Needs:***

If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, (2) has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or (3) requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center 940(397-4140) and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible.

### ***Office Hours:***

Dr. Morrow has five schedule office hours to meet with her; these are posted on her schedule on the door to C117F and beside C117K. Requesting a meeting during office hours is preferred to ensure she is available. If you are unavailable during those times, she has five flexible hours to coordinate a meeting. Meetings can be in-person, via phone, zoom, or facetime. You may call her office during scheduled office hours; however, she may not answer if she is meeting with a student.

### ***Covid-19: Vaccines and Face Coverings:***

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 physician 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.

### ***Classroom Cleaning Protocols:***

Each classroom on campus has cleaning protocols. Students in the Department of Music are encouraged to follow cleaning protocol before and after class. Students will be taught cleaning protocols and will have time allotted to clean their area at the end of class.

### ***Piano Lab Cleaning Protocols:***

Students in the Piano Lab will be taught cleaning protocols for the pianos. Time will be allotted to clean their area at the end of class.

***D2L:***

All handouts and other information will be available through the MSU D2L system, the gradebook in D2L will be enabled. If you experience problems with D2L, please let me know as soon as possible. In addition, the D2L page has a "Report A Problem" function on the top navigation bar as well as a FAQ function in the middle of the page on the right.

***Privacy Statement:***

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students' academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

***Academic Dishonesty:***

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. 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 created by the individual to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor 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 do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

***Social Justice:***

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a safe place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

***Campus Carry:***

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 [MSU Texas Campus Carry Rules](#).