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Fall 9-1-2022

### MUSI 395.17: Applied Study III - Piano

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Whatley, Margery M., "MUSI 395.17: Applied Study III - Piano" (2022). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 399.

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# PIANO STUDY

*at*

The University of Montana

School of Music

## Syllabus

*for*

Academic Year 2022-2023

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## **I. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

- A. To develop in the student the performance skill within the assigned level
- B. To provide a suitable pedagogical background for the student who plans to utilize his/her applied study in music education or studio instruction
- C. To develop a thorough knowledge of performance literature and instructional material for the medium
- D. To develop as a professional in the field through listening to performances of classical musicians and, in particular, classical concert pianists, live in concert and on recordings, and to study the tradition of classical music through readings and related materials

Weekly lessons will help you to achieve command, mastery and artistry on the instrument in all areas of musicianship. I strive to create the best possible learning atmosphere. I care about each one of you; in return, I expect you to give your best effort in my studio. Since each student's goals differ, I will work closely with each one of you to help you achieve your proposed goals. You should be able to indicate to me what your goals are and then strive to achieve them to the best of your ability.

## **II. Credit Hours**

- A. 1 credit hour = one 30-minute lesson per week
- B. 2 credit hours = one 60-minute lesson per week
- C. 3-4 credit hours = one 60-minute lesson per week (performance degree)

## **III. Requirements and Expectations**

### **A. Lessons**

1. Attendance is mandatory. A semester consists of 14 applied lessons.
  - a. Lessons cancelled due to illness or emergencies will be made up at my discretion.

- b. If a school function causes a student to miss a lesson, a make-up will be arranged
  - c. There should be no other reason to cancel a lesson
2. Lessons cancelled for the reasons above must be cancelled in advance of the scheduled lesson time
3. Lesson skipped or missed without a valid reason will receive a grade of an "F"
4. If I should miss a lesson for an unforeseeable reason, or due to professional obligations outside of the university, that lesson will be made up. If you wish to contact me during the daytime, a message may be left by email or text.

## **B. Practice Requirements**

1. *Music Performance majors* are required to practice a minimum of three hours per day
2. *All other music majors* are required to practice a minimum of two hours per day
3. *Music minors and non-majors* are expected to practice one hour per day

*Consistent Practice Practices Consistency!!*

## **Sight Reading Practice**

The skill of sight-reading is an essential component of musicianship. Sight-reading skill cannot be taken for granted—it is not an automatic outcome of practicing memorized repertoire. IT MUST BE PRACTICED. You are expected to practice sight-reading on a regular basis. Spending at least one hour a week sight reading music would be advisable. Sources for sight-reading include the Four Star Sight Reading books, library scores, easy repertory books, hymnals, sheet music and music anthologies. Regular use of the *Prep Steps for Effective Sight-Reading* is expected and will gain you the most significant results.

### **C. Materials**

1. Notebook specifically for lessons
2. Metronome
3. Scale Book
4. All Assigned music and books must be purchased

### **D. Studio Class**

All students are expected to attend and participate in studio class each week. This class will be scheduled at the same time every week. Your regular attendance and participation are a vital part of your learning to play the piano and is an opportunity for all the students to perform for one another and discuss various aspects of piano performance and technique. Studio class is open to visitors.

### **E. Other Requirements**

1. Music Majors: Collegiate Membership in the Music Teachers National Association
2. Music Majors are expected to attend recitals in which a pianist is performing. This should not be unreasonable considering all majors must attend 100 recitals within your 4-year degree plan. These performances may include:
  - a. Degree Recitals
  - b. Afternoon Recitals
  - c. Monthly Keyboard Area Recitals
  - d. Student Chamber Music Recitals
  - e. Faculty Recitals
  - f. Faculty Chamber Music Recitals

- g. Guest Artist Recitals, especially the Celebrate Piano Series guests

## **F. Email and Texting**

Please ensure that you notify me of your preferred email address and your phone number for texts. These are my preferred modes of contact and will enable me to disseminate information efficiently. If you change your email address or phone number, it is your responsibility to notify me of the change so that I can update my database.

## **G. Practice Instrument**

You are expected to practice regularly for your lessons on an acoustic piano, preferably on a grand piano. Practice facilities are located in the basement of the music building. We have five practice rooms that contain a grand piano. You may sign out practice times in the main office up to two hours a day in any one room.. You may also use any of the grand pianos located in the classrooms (choir room, room 103, room 105, room 205) if the room is available. Sign out rooms for the semester in the main office.

## **H. Accompanying**

Piano students are expected to accompany at least one vocal or instrumental student each semester, which includes preparing their music, attending their lesson each week, and a rehearsal time once per week. Accompanying more than 4 students on a regular basis is discouraged due to the time demands. You may enroll in Piano Accompanying for credit (MUSI 192 Section 04 or MUSI 492 Section 04)) for any accompanying you do beyond the one student.

## **V. Grading**

A. Each lesson is graded according to:

1. preparation of assigned materials
2. improvement

3. attitude
4. punctuality
5. attendance

B. The semester grade is determined by the above criteria and jury grade. The jury grade cannot affect the lesson grade by more than one letter up or down.

C. Grading criteria:

Regardless of your degree program, each lesson should demonstrate careful preparation of assigned materials. Based on a student's aptitude, degree program, and practice time for each level, each lesson should reflect progressive improvement in technical ability and level of difficulty as established by me for each student. Each student is expected to be warmed-up and mentally prepared before each lesson, so the lesson time may be used in the most efficient and productive way.

**A = HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT.** The student has consistently prepared for each lesson, has displayed professionalism, and has made superior progress in all aspects of technique, musicality, and creativity. The student has completed the amount of material the teacher feels is necessary for substantial progress.

**B = EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT.** The student has displayed very high levels of preparation and progress and has completed an acceptable amount of literature.

**C = IMPROVEMENT IS RECOMMENDED.** The student is making some progress, but given reasonable expectations, the student is not working completely to his or her potential.

**D = POOR.** Although a D is considered passing in some areas of study at The University of Montana, it is not considered adequate for a student with professional aspirations in the music field. Much more practice is recommended, and the grade must be brought up in order to remain in the program. Probationary status in the piano studio will be in effect until progress is made.

**F = FAILING.** A student receiving the grade of “F” will not be permitted to remain in the piano studio and a change of Major will be advised.

## **VI. Recital Requirements**

- A. All music majors and music minors are required to perform an Upper Division Recital Performance (UDRP) during their sophomore year. This recital will be performed during an Afternoon Recital Time (2:10pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year). It will consist of at least two contrasting works. Performance majors must memorize one of the works. The UDRP should be approximately 15-20 minutes in length.
- B. Junior recital: required of all performance majors (30-40 minutes of music per student); this recital is shared by another student.
- C. Senior recital: required of all performance majors; full recital of at least one hour of music.
- D. Student recital: any music major or minor may give a recital in their senior year. **Most music education majors perform a half (shared) or full recital. It is not a degree requirement but is an extremely important part of your own music education.** It is difficult to call yourself a musician if you have not culminated your undergraduate years of piano study with a recital performance!

## **VII. Juries**

- A. Juries are held at the end of each semester, and typically take place in the Music Recital Hall at the beginning of final exam week. This is an opportunity for you to perform for the keyboard faculty for comments. The jury is graded, and the semester grade may be affected by the jury grade by one letter. The jury is required for all enrolled in the 195-551 series.
  - 1. Juries consist of scales, a prepared selection and sight reading
  - 2. Juries are 10 minutes in length for a 30 minute lesson, and up to 20 minutes in length for a 60 minute lesson



3. Music majors are typically expected to play two to three pieces. The jury committee is also presented with a record of additional work completed during the semester including technique, sight-reading, keyboard skills, and other work.
4. Juries in the Fall Semester will involve a short sight reading example chosen by the keyboard faculty appropriate for each student's ability. In the Spring Semester, each student will be assigned a 48-hour piece, whereby the student is required to learn and perform a piece of music with only two days of preparation time.

#### **Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at

<http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/documents/StudentConductCode1.pdf>