

Course Description

Through readings, class discussions, teaching demonstrations, and teaching observations, students will be provided with creative teaching strategies to instruct piano students from the beginning stages of piano study through the intermediate level.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Develop a teaching philosophy that outlines objectives and procedures applicable to private piano instruction.
- 2) Broaden the knowledge of teaching techniques suitable for young beginners as well as adults.
- 3) Assess the different methods available for teaching beginning through intermediate level piano students.
- 4) Become familiar with the standard teaching repertoire for beginning through intermediate level piano students.
- 5) Develop teaching strategies for the instruction of sight-reading, harmonization, transposition, memorization, and other necessary skills.

Grading

Readings and assignments	200 points	20%
Teaching demonstrations	200 points	20%
Class Portfolio	200 points	20%
Final Project	200 points	20%
Exams - mid-term & final	200 points	20%

A=1000-900 B= 899-800 C= 799-700 D= 699-600 F= 599-0

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and events as required by the instructor. Failure to attend mandatory events will result in the deduction of one letter grade from your semester grade. **Only one absence will be allowed**; after that, each absence will result in the deduction of 50 points from your semester grade. I reserve the right to drop a student from the course after four absences. Repeated lateness (after two) for class will be penalized by lowering your final grade by 5 points for each tardy. Students leaving the classroom before class is dismissed will receive an absence for that day. Medical excuses and university-sponsored trips are acceptable reasons for missing class as long as documentation is provided. If you do not bring books and materials to class, you will be counted as absent.

Readings and Assignments

For every class meeting, you will be expected to complete the assigned readings and homework. Please refer to the tentative schedule for a list of assignments and deadlines.

Teaching Demonstrations

During the semester, you will be required to prepare teaching demonstrations of two different repertoire pieces from each period of music appropriate for the beginning through intermediate level student. On the day of the demonstrations, I will choose which of the two pieces you have prepared to be presented to the class. The teaching demonstrations should be approximately 15 minutes in length and include the following:

- Performance of the selected piece
- Discussion of the pedagogy and musical elements found in the piece
- Imagery or adjectives that describe the piece, suitable for working with students of different ages
- A list of at least ten other pieces from the same style period and level that address similar musical and pedagogical skills
- A handout that includes a copy of the selected piece and a chart that includes the information presented in your presentation

Class Portfolio

At the end of the semester, you will turn in a portfolio (binder) that includes all assignments, notes, materials, and handouts used in this course. This will become a practical reference material for you once you start your teaching career. The portfolio is due on the day of the final exam.

Final Project

By the end of the semester, you will design a method series for an average age beginning piano student. In order to complete this project, you will need to use your acquired knowledge of available beginning methods that you will be reviewing in class. As you review the methods throughout the semester, evaluate the pros and cons of each and assess how you would improve the content and its delivery. The create-a-method project is due on the day of the final exam.