

Texas A&M University – Commerce
Department of Music
Piano Pedagogy 331-02

Class Location: **Music Building 228**

Instructor: **Libby Vanatta** **Email:** **libby.vanatta@gmail.com**

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All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (*Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.*)

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone: 903-886-5150 or 903-886-5835
Fax: 903-468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

University Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensemble to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Required Textbook

The required texts are *The Well-Tempered Keyboard Teacher* (2nd ed.) by Uszler, Gordon, & Smith, and *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* by Magrath.

Course Description

Through readings, class discussions, teaching demonstrations, and teaching observations, students will be provided with creative teaching strategies to instruct early advanced students and non-keyboard collegiate students in both private and group classes. The students will become familiar with different learning and teaching styles and theories and how they relate to piano teaching. They will also overview the development of keyboard pedagogy from Diruta and Burrows to our time.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Explore different learning and teaching styles and become familiar with the leading scholars and their theories. Correlate these learning and teaching styles to individual piano instruction.
- 2) Become familiar with the development of keyboard pedagogy from Diruta in private teaching and Burrows in group teaching to our time.
- 3) Become familiar with the standard teaching repertoire for the early advanced student as well as class piano.
- 4) Develop a professional portfolio suitable for seeking a position teaching piano at a higher education institution as a teaching assistant.
- 5) Identify quality teaching by master teachers through observation.

Grading

Teaching demonstrations	200 points	20%
Assignments + Portfolio	200 points	20%
Practicum project	300 points	30%
Research paper & presentation	200 points	20%
Final exam	100 points	10%

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 repertoire pieces appropriate for the early advanced student. 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 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.

Practicum Project – observations and evaluations of piano teaching

This assignment is valuable to receive immediate feedback of your teaching and your effectiveness as a teacher as well as to observe effective teachers working with students. Refer to the tentative schedule for deadlines and scheduling parameters. The project consists of four parts:

- Each student will be required to teach one private lesson that I will observe on campus of a non-collegiate student. During the next lesson of this student, you will observe me teaching for half of the lesson time. Each student will then submit three videos of their teaching of this same student filmed in consecutive weeks. There is no requirement as to the level and age of the student.
- Each student will be required to travel to observe two lessons taught by a professional teacher working in the Dallas area. Refer to the list of approved teachers and protocol.
- Each student will observe me or Dr. Sanchez teaching a lesson of a non-keyboard music major during two consecutive weeks. The student will teach the lesson during the third week.
- Each student will observe me teaching two consecutive classes of class piano. The student will teach half of the class during the third consecutive class meeting.

Research Paper and Presentation

Your research paper must be 10-15 pages in length. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and have one-inch margins all around. All pages are to be numbered and stapled together. Musical examples must be labeled and pasted directly into the text. Footnotes or endnotes and the bibliography must follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The bibliography should be on a separate page and must include at least two articles from scholarly music history or analysis journals and they must have been useful in your paper. All items in the bibliography must be directly related to your topic and must have had some influence on the final paper. Internet resources should be limited to reputable sites with contributions by credible scholars (NO WIKIPEDIA – ever!). Grades will be subtracted for incorrect spelling, grammar, and lack of organization of ideas. If you need assistance with your paper, please discuss it with me BEFORE the paper is due. Grades will be subtracted for late papers. The paper is due on the day of your presentation.

The presentation should be given as if it were a presentation at a professional music conference. The presentation should be 30 minutes in length with supporting visual aids (i.e. PowerPoint, YouTube) and a coordinating hand-out. Refer to the assignment sheet for examples of topics and other guidelines.