MUS 151.160 – APPLIED PIANO
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014

Instructor: Libby Vanatta
Office Location: Music Building 221
Office Hours: by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5286
Email Address: libby.vanatta@gmail.com

*If class is taught by a GTA, contact information will be given at first class meeting.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Music Purchases
A discussion of necessary music purchases will happen at the first lesson. Purchases are expected to be made immediately and within two weeks of the time of the discussion. Photocopies of technical exercises, harmonizations, accompaniments, and chorales will be provided by the teacher.

Required Practice
Students are expected to practice daily. Expect to practice a minimum of forty-five minutes to one hour every day. It is almost impossible to “cram” at the last minute and pass the piano proficiency exam. You are not only expected to play the elements of your exam well, but to do so in a performance setting in front of multiple jurists who will all grade you. Daily preparation is the only way to insure that your nerves do not get the best of you!

Course Description
This course provides private instruction for music majors and music minors in piano. The course includes recitals and performance forums with teacher-directed student evaluations and instructions.
Student Learning Outcomes

Midterm Exam
1) Play an ascending vocalization accompaniment in every major key at the tempo of quarter note equals 76.
2) Play a harmonization example with a steady, reasonable tempo.
3) Play a two-handed accompaniment to a given melody.
4) Play at a forte dynamic every possible combination of any two parts from a representative piece from the choral repertoire given to the student one week in advance of exam.

Final Exam
1) Play all major scales in two octaves, hands together, with the correct fingering and at the tempo of quarter note equals 76.
2) Play all major chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I) including inversions with good fingering in half notes and at the tempo of quarter note equals 76.
3) Play a piece at the level equivalent to Snell book 2 or 3 at performance tempo.
4) Play at a forte dynamic every possible combination of any two parts from a representative piece from the choral repertoire given to the student one week in advance of exam.
5) Play a four-part chorale.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
All instruction will be given in Ms. Vanatta’s studio or a piano practice room. All exams will be given one-on-one in Ms. Vanatta’s studio. Both the midterm and final exams will be given in the presence of Ms. Vanatta, applied lesson teacher if a GTA, and Dr. Sanchez. Each teacher in attendance will grade the exam. All of these grades will be averaged to get the exam grade.

GRADING

Grading
Attendance and preparation 400 pts
Midterm and Final 600 pts

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

The mid-term and final serve as the lower division proficiency exam. You must pass the exams with a “C” in order to advance to MUS 351.
COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement
Teachers of applied piano lessons will communicate with students through the email available on MyLeo. It is the student’s responsibility to check University Email regularly in case there are any changes to the syllabus. Teachers are available via the email address communicated to the student at the first lesson. Teachers are available for tutoring upon request of the student.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all lessons and studio classes scheduled by the instructor. The student will have one 30 minute lesson each week. Only one absence is allowed; after that, each absence will lower your final grade by 50 points. I reserve the right to drop a student from the course after four absences. Repeated tardiness (after two) will lower your final grade by 5 points for each. If you do not bring the necessary materials to your lesson, that lesson will be counted as tardy.

Lack of preparation is not an adequate excuse for rescheduling a lesson. Lessons will only be rescheduled in the case of a medical excuse or university sponsored trip if I am notified in advance. Understand that you must plan your week appropriately to complete your practice and come prepared to your lesson.

University Specific Procedures

ADA Statement
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
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).
COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Weeks 1 – 7: regular piano lessons
Week 8: Midterm Exam

Weeks 9 - 15: regular piano lessons
Week 16: Final Exam