

Texas A&M University – Commerce
Department of Music
Piano Pedagogy 531-001

Instructor:	Libby Vanatta	Email:	libby.vanatta@gmail.com
Office:	Music Building 230	Phone:	903-886-5286, office 972-352-8968, cell

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@tamuc.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, and teaching demonstrations, students will be provided with creative teaching strategies to instruct piano students from the early elementary through the intermediate level.

Students Assessment 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 knowledge of teaching techniques suitable for use in the private piano lesson for students of all ages.
- 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.
- 6) Identify quality teaching by master teachers through observation.

Student Expectations

This course will be team-taught by Ms. Libby Vanatta and Dr. Luis Sanchez. Graduate students are required to attend a weekly meeting on Mondays at 3:00pm in Ms. Vanatta's office. **Only 1 absence will be allowed**, after which 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) to class will also be penalized by lowering your final grade by 5 points for each tardy. Medical excuses and university-sponsored trips are acceptable reasons for missing class. If you do not bring books and materials to class you will be counted as absent.

You must be prepared to do your presentations and teaching demonstrations on the scheduled day. All assignments must be turned in on or before the specified deadline. Failure to do so will result in the lowering by one letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Grading

Projects	300 points	30%
Collegiate teaching/observation	400 points	40 %
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

Projects

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

Collegiate Teaching and Observation

Students will work with Dr. Sanchez to complete the following assignments:

1. Observe three consecutive 60-minute lessons of three different undergraduate piano majors. All observations must be scheduled by the end of the second week of the semester.
2. Teach the fourth consecutive 60-minute lesson to three different undergraduate piano majors whose lessons you observed. Lessons will be taught between weeks 8 and 12 of the semester.
3. Teach one 60-minute masterclass during studio class. Repertoire and students participating will be arranged two weeks in advance. (Weeks 10-13)

Research Paper and Presentation

Your research paper must be no less than 20 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 journals. 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 reduced 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. The paper is due on the date indicated on the schedule. Grades will be reduced by one letter per day a paper is turned in late.

The presentation of this paper will be given at the first or second studio class of the semester. It should be given as if it were a presentation at a professional music conference. The presentation will be 50 minutes in length with supporting visual aids and a coordinating hand-out.