

Course Syllabus, MVO 7460, MUS7951
PIANO STUDIO—Spring, 2021
Dr. Kevin R. Orr
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Office Hours: As posted for semester

Note: The rise of COVID-19 has brought about unusual circumstances that may necessitate some aspects of this course shifting online. As of this writing, the course is planned for live one-on-one lessons and virtual studio classes. Changes to this plan may become necessary due to changes in the status of the COVID-19 situation on the UF campus.

The aim of this course is to expose the student to the realm of literature for solo piano, and in some cases, piano ensemble/concerto repertoire. The intention is to cover literature that represents a broad range of musical styles, although the needs of the student will stand as the most significant factor in determining literature/exercises for study.

Students are expected to practice DAILY, for a MINIMUM of 3 hours. Performance majors, and graduate students must commit a minimum of 4 hours per day to practice. Students are expected to work out “objective” issues in their repertoire (notes/fingering) prior to the lesson, so that discussion can focus upon more “subjective” areas, such as interpretation. This is, of course, a general policy, not applicable to every situation or every student.

As a member of this studio, students are expected to perform, when asked, for the class during our regular Tuesday group meeting time. Often, this situation can resemble a “masterclass” setting, depending upon the number of students playing. Additionally, upon completion of a work, students are expected, when asked, to perform publicly, either in Convocation, or in some other venue off campus.

Students enrolled in a curriculum that requires a recital(s) are expected to complete any necessary paperwork/scheduling for the event. Recital performers are also expected to formulate a recital committee of one other faculty member from the piano area, and one non-piano faculty member. Often, the committee is established during the beginning of the school year in which the student is to give the recital. Naturally, recital students are expected to learn all repertoire for a recital FAR IN ADVANCE of the recital, to foster a more secure performance. In general, memorization of repertoire is required at least one month in advance of a performance.

Piano majors completing 2000 level study will be expected to undergo a Pre-Professional jury prior to being admitted to 3000 level study. In this jury, the student will perform and discuss his/her recital repertoire for the piano area and one member of the faculty outside of the piano area. Questions about preparing for the oral portion of this jury should be directed to Dr. Orr.

Graduate students (MM/DMA) are expected to formulate a committee of faculty members (one other member of the piano area and a faculty member from another area). The committee’s role is to evaluate the student’s graduate recital and graduate oral examination at the conclusion of the degree. This committee should be formulated EARLY during the student’s progress toward the degree.

Evaluation of students will be based upon progress and the ability to meet assigned goals. Goals/progress evaluation will not be the same for all students—evaluation will be consistent with, and reflective of the student’s ability level. Students may inquire about their progress at any point in the semester. Since regular attendance is vital to fulfilling lesson goals, attendance will also be considered in determining a student’s grade. After one unexcused absence, the semester grade will be dropped by one letter for each additional unexcused absence. Make-up lessons may be given in cases of documented illness and/or reasonable excuse, schedule permitting. All lessons missed by the professor will be made up at a mutually agreeable time.

Students are expected to obtain personal editions of all music to be studied, as recommended by Dr. Orr. Library copies are acceptable only on a short-term basis. Having your own music is necessary, not only to write comments and suggestions in the lesson, but for building a personal music library.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.