

Course Syllabus Studio Piano

MVK 1411, 2421, 3431, 3970, 4441, 4971; MVO 6460, 7460
Fall 2023

Instructor

Dr. Evan Mitchell

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Office: MUB 346

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5th period (11:45am-12:35pm) or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Through focused study of repertoire, technical elements, performance practice, and other relevant topics, students will continually improve toward mastery of the piano. Assignments will vary based on each individual student's current level, prior experience, degree plan, and personal goals.

Each student will attend a weekly in-person private lesson as well as our studio class. Performance requirements will vary according to each student's progress toward completion of their degree, but students should generally expect to perform a jury, pre-professional jury, or degree recital. Details will be discussed with each student individually.

Weekly Schedule

Private lessons will be held weekly in MUB 346 at a mutually agreed upon time.

Studio class will be held every Tuesday, 6th Period (12:50pm-1:40pm) in either MUB 101 or the Keyboard Lab (143).

Important Dates

September 26	Guest class: Dr. Sarah Masterson (location TBD). Recital Sept. 25, 7:20pm
October 10	Guest class: Dr. Tom Hicks (MUB 101)
October 11-17	Midterms
October 19-22	Florida MTA Conference, Lakeland
October 31	Guest class: Dr. Yoon-Wha Roh (MUB 101). Recital Oct. 30, 7:20pm
November 7	Guest class: Dr. Ilka Araujo (MUB 101). Recital Nov. 7, 7:20pm
December TBA	Studio recital

Preparation/Practice

The influential pedagogue Dr. Shinichi Suzuki famously said, "Only practice on the days that you eat". Students are expected to practice **daily**. While quality of practice can be more important than duration, it takes years of advanced study to hone the skills needed to practice with great efficiency. Therefore, students should expect to spend a lot of time in the practice room! Anywhere from two to four hours daily may be recommended, depending on a student's assignments and major/degree standing.

Studio Class

Attendance at our weekly studio class is mandatory. This will serve as a supportive and judgment-free setting in which to practice the art of performance. Students will discover how to improve their own performance, and will learn from observing their peers. Depending on the number of performers, studio class may take the form of a masterclass in which feedback is provided. Other times, we may devote the entire class to student performances without much comment. Our final studio class of the semester will represent a miniature studio recital or mock jury (for those completing a jury), in which all students will perform.

Degree Recital

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 recruit a recital committee of one other faculty member from the piano area, and one non-piano faculty member. This should be done as early in the school year as possible. Students are expected to meet suggested deadlines with respect to learning and memorizing their repertoire.

Pre-Professional Jury

Piano majors enrolled in 2000 level study will be expected to complete a Pre-Professional Jury prior to being admitted to 3000 level study. In this jury, the student will perform and discuss their recital repertoire before a panel consisting of the entire piano faculty plus one non-piano faculty member.

Attendance

Students are expected to be present and punctual every week. At the discretion of Dr. Mitchell, a first unexcused absence may be forgiven; all subsequent absences will result in a half-letter deduction from the student's semester grade. Similarly, one tardy arrival will be excused, after which point every two subsequent tardies will have the same effect as one unexcused absence on a final grade.

Midterms

During normal lesson times in week 8 of the semester, students will be evaluated on their repertoire-in-progress. Assignments will be discussed several weeks beforehand, and students will generally be expected to either play through all or most of their jury repertoire from score, or fewer selections from memory.

Grading

Students will be graded on a 100-point scale with the following rubric:

Weekly lessons:	5 points each, 75 total points possible
Midterm:	15 points possible
Jury/recital:	15 total points possible

The potential for 105 points allows the student to miss one lesson or class without penalty.

A student's jury/recital grade represents the totality of their preparation over the course of the semester: practice and weekly progress, written program notes (where applicable), timely and professional administration of recital or jury scheduling and other procedures, etc. Students who have fulfilled course expectations all semester should not be concerned that a memory slip or less-than-ideal jury performance will severely impact their grade. On the other hand, students who have been late to submit required jury or recital paperwork or other communications, have shown uneven commitment throughout the semester, or otherwise not satisfied course requirements, should not expect that an above average jury performance will merit any sort of "extra credit" toward the other elements of their overall semester grade.

Students must attend a majority of weekly lessons and studio classes, plus perform a final jury, in order to pass the course. Students who do not attend a sufficient number of lessons and classes will receive a grade of E. A grade of Incomplete will not be assigned in this case. A grade of Incomplete may be assigned only if the student does not perform a jury due to emergency and a makeup cannot be arranged before the end of the semester.

Students may inquire about their standing in the class at any point in the semester.

Grading Scale

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Concert Attendance

Students are strongly encouraged to attend on-campus performances by students, faculty, and/or guest artists featuring the piano.

Required Materials

Students are expected to obtain personal editions of all music to be studied, as recommended by Dr. Mitchell. 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.

In-Class Recording

Recording practice sessions and lessons can be extraordinarily helpful for students to not only track their progress, but to remind themselves of what to practice each week and to become

more self-aware in listening to their own playing. To that end, I strongly recommend students take a video or audio recording of their lessons.

Please note that at UF, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. 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/>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420.

General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conductcode/

On-Line Student Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/