

Course Syllabus
Studio Piano
MVK 1411, 2421, 3431, 3970, 4441, 4971; MVO 6460, 7460
Fall 2025

Instructor

Dr. Evan Mitchell

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Office: MUB 346

Office Hours: Thursdays 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, MUB 346 or the Keyboard Lab (143). Location will be announced on Monday each week.

Important Dates

September 25	Dr. Mitchell performance with UFSO – Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1, 7:20pm, UA
October 6	Guest artist recital: Dr. Chih-Long Hu (U. of Tennessee), 7:20pm, MUB 101
October 7	Guest artist masterclass: Dr. Chih-Long Hu, 12:50pm, MUB 101
October 9-15	Midterms
October 13	Guest artist recital: Anthony Hewitt (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire), 7:20pm, MUB101
October 14	Guest artist masterclass: Anthony Hewitt, 12:50pm, MUB 101
October 20	Dr. Tu solo recital, 7:20pm, MUB 101

October 30-November 6	Checkpoints
November 15	Dr. Mitchell solo recital, 3:00pm, MUB 101
November 18	Studio recital, 5:10pm, MUB 101
December 9	Juries, MUB 101

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.

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. Students must arrive with all books and other materials from which they have practiced. If reading from a tablet, the device and stylus must be fully charged.

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.

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.

Checkpoints and Presentations

Undergraduate students will perform a “checkpoint” during the semester, usually consisting of a short-term assigned piece (i.e., one week notice). The content will vary depending on course number/degree standing. Graduate students will give a short presentation during studio class, also to be announced well in advance.

Studio Recital

This performance will be open to any family, friends, and members of the public who wish to attend. It is intended to give students a target for finishing their preparations in advance of juries, and a first performance experience with some of their jury repertoire.

Final Jury

Students will prepare several selections to perform for the entire piano faculty in MUB 101 on the Tuesday during exam week. Specific repertoire will be assigned early in the semester.

Expectations of Professionalism (and Bonus Points)

Whether music is a student's eventual career path or not, those who always maintain professional conduct and a strong sense of collegiality will be well served in future endeavors. Students may earn up to 50 points for consistently demonstrating high standards of professionalism, including but not limited to:

- treating others respectfully by giving undivided attention to a student performer or instructor;
- being receptive to constructive criticism and thoughtfully engaged during lessons;
- and communicating effectively in person and in writing (for instance, responding to emails in a timely fashion).

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.

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.

Concert Attendance

Students are required to attend Piano Area **Guest Artist** performances, and are expected/strongly encouraged to attend on-campus performances by students, faculty, and/or guest artists featuring the piano. In the event that a student has a UF-related, documented conflict during a required concert, an alternative assignment or concert attendance will be given. Unexcused absence from required concerts will result in a deduction of one-half letter grade per occurrence.

Grading

Students will be graded on a 1,000-point scale with the following rubric:

Weekly lessons (13):	40 points each, 520 points possible
Checkpoint/presentation:	100 points possible
Midterm:	120 points possible
Studio recital:	120 points possible
Final Jury:	120 points possible
Professionalism bonus:	50 points possible

Point totals will be divided by 10 to determine letter grades (i.e., 930 or above is an A, 900-929 an A-minus, etc.). Grades will only be rounded up within half a percentage point (i.e., 895 rounds up to an A-minus). With 1,300 points possible, extra credit is “built-in” and no additional extra credit opportunities will be offered.

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.

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.

Additional Information

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>