



APPLIED MUSIC SYLLABUS  
MUAP 1270.090CL  
PIANO  
STUDIO OF PAUL BOYD  
**Fall 2023**

DAY/TIME

Arrange weekly lesson times with the instructor. Students are required to perform in at least two events per semester in addition to juries; the Tuesday Performance Hour (12:30-1:30) will be held as needed by the instructor for this purpose.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Paul Boyd, Professor; [pboyd@com.edu](mailto:pboyd@com.edu); 409-933-8342

Please leave a callback number if I do not answer in person.

Connie Stebbins, Fine Arts Administrative Assistant, is usually available during business hours at extension 8943.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Please use the COM email address above to communicate, not D2L. Phone calls are also welcome, but I always check email first. Generally I answer all inquiries within 48 hours or sooner, but if you email or call on Friday-Sunday, I may be occasionally out of town performing or teaching a workshop in the real world (and away from the virtual one) until Monday.

**OFFICE:** Fine Arts F-122

**STUDENT (OFFICE) HOURS:** Appointments during scheduled hours or at other times are encouraged so that time can be devoted to each student individually. The following hours will likely be revised after scheduling private piano lessons during the first week; any changes will be posted at my office door.

Tuesday 1:30-4, or by appointment

**TEXTBOOKS:** The instructor insists that students buy their own music for this course. Copies are not allowed for performance whatsoever unless pieces are in public domain. Every effort will be made to minimize cost so that the materials will not be over \$50. per semester.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/BENEFITS:** Private instruction on piano is available to students majoring in music, and to other students who desire to gain or improve proficiency if there is conflict with taking Class Piano and the faculty schedule permits after accommodating majors. Students must have their own instrument or be at the college to practice daily. Pianists meet

weekly (at least) with the instructor for lessons on their major instrument, attend Performance Class at least twice in the semester, complete projects to broaden their musical experience, and present performances in jury and on at least two other occasions.

**GOALS:** The main objective of piano study is to prepare for and take part in positive performance experiences. In order to achieve this, the pianist must acquire repertoire, develop a workable technical facility, and learn advanced musicianship and practice skills. A pianist must be active in the performing and/or teaching scene, at first as an observer, then later as a participant. (See Special Projects section below.)

## **REQUIREMENTS**

1. Work weekly at a pace in order to prepare for presentation of four works or movements each semester; all are to be performed in class and at least 1-2 will be assigned for jury exam.
2. Build technique and theoretical knowledge by doing an assigned warm-up regimen at least once daily
3. Analyze music and read outside materials such as biographies
4. Perform in class and on final jury.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS/ASSIGNMENTS:** To be a successful performer and/or teacher, a pianist must go out of her or his way to gain extensive field experience. Participating in master classes, attending recitals, listening to recordings, community performances, teaching, and reading books on piano and composers are examples of ways to begin immersing yourself in the piano world. Piano majors must give evidence of at least two of these activities per semester, in addition to all other requirements, in order to receive an “A.”

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:** A variety of means to evaluate student performance is employed, such as lesson attendance, preparation of assigned repertoire, realistic goal-setting, individual improvement (weekly!): all add up to produce a final semester jury performance evaluated by the music faculty.

## **GRADING**

There can be no completely objective formula for grading a performance course, but the following areas are considered primary in importance:

Studio attendance - see policies below

**Attendance of Performance Class or playing a pre-performance tryout in the hall a minimum of two times each semester is required!** Students with conflicts must discuss other alternatives with the instructor.

Performance in juries and recitals

Completion of special projects

Constant improvement in technique level

New memory work: at least two pieces each semester

Participation in recitals, master classes, workshops, teacher training, etc.

## GRADING SCALE

- A Superior achievement of course objectives.
- B Outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- C Achievement of minimum course objectives. (Not recommended for music majors!)
- D Marginal achievement of course objectives.
- I DUE TO THE INTENSIVE ONE-ON-ONE TIME REQUIREMENT PLACED ON THE INSTRUCTOR, INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR APPLIED MUSIC.
- F Failure to achieve course objectives.
- W Withdrawal by student on or before the “W” date as specified in the College Calendar.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** If you must miss a lesson, it is required to give twenty-four hours’ notice in advance so that your time may be exchanged with another student’s. Or look at the posted schedule and ask someone to switch with you. Missed lessons are made up ONLY at the discretion and convenience of the instructor, but less than the required notice will likely result in no make-up, and no more than two reschedulings will be granted per semester. In the rare event of the instructor’s absence, every attempt will be made to accommodate the student. All due dates are final. Incompletes are not given in this course.

**ATTENDANCE “POLICY”:** Absences are not classified as “excused” or “unexcused.” Students are expected to be prepared and on time for each lesson, and to act professionally by calling or emailing in advance if needing to miss. ANY absence or late arrival potentially lowers your grade since it lessens your preparation time. While the college does not grant a set number of misses, the instructor reserves the right to drop or fail any student who has not shown up or made contact for two weeks for any reason. However, do not assume that you will be automatically dropped: it is up to you to contact Dr. Boyd and/or drop *before* “W” day if you are concerned about your grade. **You will need to fill out the drop form and turn it in yourself.**

**TARDINESS:** If you are more than five minutes late to a tutoring/office appointment, the instructor may leave to conduct other college business.

**OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:** The successful student will through completing this course build repertoire (4 works or movements per semester), technique, and piano performance and listening skills. Specific expected outcomes include: playing at least two pieces from contrasting historical style periods, exhibiting a technique free of tension and capable of executing the assigned repertoire, accuracy in reading, attention to expressive markings, and performing memorized selections before a jury panel twice each semester. Jury is mandatory, and is graded by the panel. Two additional performances are required each semester, as well as completion of two outside projects (see below).

This course is not part of the core curriculum. However, the following state-wide “core competencies” are listed below with information on their inclusion and means of assessment in this course as mandated by the college:

- 1) **Critical Thinking (CT): (SLO #1—see box below)**  
Assessment of your creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information is done through our final playing exam (jury) in which you employ all of these elements in your performance.
- 2) **Communication Skills: (SLO #2)**  
Your ability to develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication is assessed through your completion of a record summarizing repertoire and technique covered during the semester and, if required, a weekly practice record.
- 3) **Teamwork: (SLO #3)**  
Assessment of your ability to consider different points of view and to work with others effectively to support a shared purpose or goal will be made through participating in an ensemble piece during the semester.
- 4) **Social Responsibility: (SLO #4)**  
Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities is assessed through your participation in group class including positive feedback for other performers.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Demonstrate elements of critical thinking by interpreting a musical score.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Final jury
2. Identify and express in writing the musical and technical materials covered.	Communication Skills (CS1)	Summary form at end of semester; practice journal
3. Show effective teamwork through participatory group activity.	Teamwork (TW)	Ensemble Project
4. Show respect and demonstrate demeanor culturally appropriate to the setting.	Social Responsibility (SR)	Group class participation/contribution

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

**CONCERNS/QUESTIONS STATEMENT:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dean Rocky Barney at 409.933.8727 [rbarney@com.edu](mailto:rbarney@com.edu).

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- Week 1: Turn in schedule card to instructor. Meet and discuss repertoire. Technical regimen assigned.
- Week 2-6 Meet at least weekly with instructor to rehearse repertoire and technical skills. Practice at least three hours daily individually. Attend Performance Hour when required. Inform instructor of outside projects (readings, analysis, masterclasses, etc.)
- Week 7 Perform in class (if available) during or before this week.
- Week 8 Evaluated performance by memory in class and/or lesson.
- Week 9-16 Repeat activities of weeks 2-8. Exception: final juries are held during week 15. Week 16 is for discussion of jury performance and evaluation. Evidence must be presented to the instructor of completion of special assignments (2) by the last scheduled lesson time in week 16.

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## **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last

eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 7.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).