



APPLIED MUSIC SYLLABUS  
MUAP 2271-090C3, PIANO  
DR. STEVEN TERMINI  
**Fall 2025**

**DAY/TIME:** Lesson times are arranged individually with students. 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 INFORMATION:** Dr. Steven Termini contact info: [stermini@com.edu](mailto:stermini@com.edu). Alternately, the Fine Arts Administrative Assistant, Nichole Montrose, is usually available to take your call during normal business hours at 409-933-8943.

**COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR:** instructor's email address is listed above.

**OFFICE:** Fine Arts F-123

**TEXTBOOKS:** Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 1 (continued) or Book 2, or selected sheet-music repertoire (as determined by the professor after evaluation of individual students). Don't buy any books until the initial first-lesson evaluation.

**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 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 (such as scales, arpeggios, or Hanon exercises, etc.) at least once daily.

3.) Analyze music, listen to online (or live) performances. 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, and teaching 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:** Coursework and specific assignments are not optional. Students are required to perform all work by the assigned deadline unless otherwise re-scheduled by the instructor due to extenuating circumstances (illness, school-related travel, etc.). Each student’s grade is based on several criteria:

1. An average of all the weekly lesson grades: each lesson grade is based on preparation, improvement, and successful completion of week-to-week assignments (any exceptions are determined by the professor). Students who display exceptional improvement and progress for the week will merit an ‘A’ for that lesson.
  2. Attendance: Students who do not show up for their lesson at all, without warning the professor beforehand of their legitimate need to be absent (see options for contacting the professor, above), receive a zero for that lesson. Even lessons that are missed with such warning may still subject to a grade penalty, depending on whether an absence is deemed truly justifiable or not. Students at Alvin Community College are expected to attend every session of all classes for which they are registered.
- 3.) Jury – the jury grade (averaged from grades given by the adjudicators who were present) will be counted as an additional “lesson grade” and averaged in with the other weekly lesson grades.

The professor reserves the right to adjust a student’s final grade based on the student’s evident effort and attitude during the semester – the grading of creativity, and artistic achievement, is not always a strict mathematical formula.

## **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:** When the student misses (or has to miss) the scheduled lesson time, make-up lessons are not usually provided. If the instructor has to miss, make-up lessons are scheduled toward the end of the semester. In the case of hurricanes or other weather events that cause school closures, make-up class time will be provided as (or if) required by the college. Incompletes are not given in this course.

**ATTENDANCE “POLICY”:** Students are expected to be prepared and on time for each lesson, and to act professionally by contacting the professor 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 ten minutes late to a tutoring/office appointment, the instructor may leave to conduct other college business. Late arrivals can affect the lesson grade.

**OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:** The successful student will, through completing this course, build repertoire, 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 each semester. Jury is mandatory, and is graded by the panel.

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.

**Student Concerns:** 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 Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair, at 409-933-8255 or [kjantz@com.edu](mailto:kjantz@com.edu).

**Course Outline:** Because there are three different grade levels within one class session, student work and scheduling will vary.

Week 1            Class instruction, evaluation of student levels and experience, first repertoire and technical skills assignments  
Week 2-15        Class introduction of new concepts weekly  
                      Tests on keys, positions, rhythms, etc. announced in class.  
Week 16          Final Exam/Jury

#### **Miscellaneous:**

All music majors will be required to play and pass a “barrier” examination or jury for a faculty panel before graduating from a four-year university. Piano skills can make or break your academic career in music; many students have even been required to re-take class piano before receiving their degrees. Practice daily, ask questions, and stay current with the assignments—and you will inevitably see improvement!

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus, and will alert students of any changes during normally-scheduled class sessions.

## 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/student-handbook.html> *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 accommodation(s) is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**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).

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.