Outline for Applied Lessons  Allison Wiebe Benstead  awiebe6@uwo.ca
MB314

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
• Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with Jury Requirements for their instrument: [http://www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/juryRequirements/PIANO%20jury%20requirements.pdf](http://www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/juryRequirements/PIANO%20jury%20requirements.pdf)

COURSE SYLLABUS:
• The student has elected this course of study to become a highly skilled, expressive and well-rounded musician through the voice of the piano. Each student is evaluated on his/her performance and proficiency. While everyone's progress will be different, here are some concrete goals over the course of a semester:
  • The student will be able to technically and artistically perform 30 min of repertoire per term, and are required to perform for memory, with an accumulating jury in April.
  • The student will demonstrate basic background information of his/her performed repertoire that can include such topics as recording artists, historical/biographical background, and analysis. It is imperative to have analyzed each piece prior and during the learning process which will ease the memory of each work.
  • The student should show professionalism and a high level of personal and time commitment to his or her progress.
• The relationship between the piano and how one uses the body is imperative, each lesson will include the introduction of technical concepts with body movements in mind, and the application of these techniques to the repertoire. Sound production, posture and technical aspects of piano playing will be addressed.

Time Commitment:
• Practice is essential for improvement. Non-performance majors are expected to practice studio instruction material for a MINIMUM of 3-4 hours daily and performance majors 4+ hours minimum as they have more material to cover.
• Students are expected to practice daily and to be well prepared for each lesson. They are required to develop an effective and healthy approach to practicing with consideration that it is a mentally and physically demanding activity, requiring fitness, a daily routine, and regular breaks to maximize efforts and to avoid risks of physical injuries.
• Practice techniques will be discussed in weekly instruction based on individual needs. Keep in mind, it is the quality of practice which determines progress, not merely the number of hours spent at the piano.
COURSE MATERIALS:
Recommended technique books:
  Dohnanyi: Essential Finger Exercises: Editio Musica Budapest
  Cortot: Rational principles of pianoforte technique: Salabert Editions

METHODS OF EVALUATION:
Music Majors: 1920, 2920, 2921, 3920, 3922, 4920
  Jury Mark: 25%; Performance Class Mark: 10%
  Studio Instructor: Term I: 32.5%  Term II: 32.5%
Non-Music Majors: 1925, 2925, 3925, 4925, 3924y, 3929, 4924y, 4929
  Jury Mark: 25%
  Studio Instructor: Term I: 37.5%  Term II: 37.5%
  No Performance Class required, but attendance is encouraged.
Performance Majors: 3921, 4921, 4922, 4923
  Jury: 20%; Performance Class: 10%
  Studio Instructor: Term I: 35%  Term II: 35%

PERFORMANCE CLASS/CONCERT ATTENDANCE
  • 5% of Performance Class grade is based on attendance, performance and participation in each scheduled performance class
  • 5% for the “Concert Attendance Requirement” in MPS Handbook: all students enrolled in performance classes must attend a minimum of 12 concerts per academic year (excluding concerts and performances in which the student is participating). Each student will be given a concert attendance card which will be signed by professors at the end of the various concerts. This requirement will be factored in the performance class grade (the percentage is left up to the instructor).
  • attendance is mandatory and punctuality will be marked
  • you are required to perform for memory and only when prepared enough to perform with a purpose in mind. We will make up a schedule during the first meeting.
    • Never abuse this privilege by testing your memory. A more formal approach is required as well – appropriate attire, shoes, and performance etiquette (no unnecessary comments from the stage, etc.) This is all part of the package.
  • the audience will supply oral comments after each performance and hand in written comments after each master class
    • the written comments should be concise and formally written - include at least one helpful suggestion and positive reinforcement for each performance
    • grammar and spelling are considered
    • for oral comments, same rules apply, ask how to pronounce the names and aim for a balance of critiques
  • There will be studio recitals throughout the year that are mandatory, please utilize all opportunities to ensure ease in performing.

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Studio Instruction:

- The final studio grade will be based on the amount of progress made during the course of the semester, independent learning initiative and attitude/professionalism toward the learning process
- Based on the ability to understand and integrate concepts and the quality and quantity of work covered
- Students’ playing relative to requirements of the level
- Each lesson will be graded, and because the final grade for this portion is an average of all weeks, consistency is crucial.
- A comprehensive goal for each lesson is necessary, aim to have an idea of what you would like to work on and what goal you would like to accomplish before entering the lesson
- Preparation for each weekly lesson includes sufficient daily practice to accomplish reasonable goals; attentiveness to details discussed at your prior lesson; corrections made to wrong notes, rhythms, etc.; and learning the score with accuracy.
- Half of the jury repertoire must be memorized and performed in master class prior to the end of Term I.

Attendance

- Each student will be scheduled twelve 50 min lessons per term
- All missed lessons by instructor will be made up, but according to the MPS Handbook, if the student cancels a lesson for any reason, the instructor is not required to make it up.
- An unexcused absence of a lessons results in a failing grade for that lesson. Unexcused tardiness will lower a previous week’s grade by an increment. An absence or tardiness is excused only if prior notice is given to the professor for a medical or personal emergency, and a week prior for an academic, school-related conflict. See notes or MPS Handbook for further information.

Communication

- All of our communication will be via email. Every student is assigned a university email account and will be the only email used, hotmail and other addresses will not be acceptable. You will be responsible for checking your Western email daily for any messages concerning piano lessons and special events. Please forward your Western Mail to your preferred provider if necessary. It is the student’s responsibility to keep informed.

Physical contact

- Due to the physical nature of playing piano, physical contact will sometimes be necessary in order to correct posture and position while playing. Physical contact is inevitable if you are to properly understand the playing mechanisms and make the necessary adjustments. It is assumed that you will communicate if, at any time, you feel uncomfortable.
NOTES:

i) Students are responsible for making up any missed classes as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities, or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds. Students seeking academic consideration must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210).

Note that the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal may not be used for requesting academic relief for work worth more than 30%, or for Final Exams scheduled during the official examination period. Students are directed to read the full Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website:  https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

A pdf copy of a Senate approved Student Medical Certificate (SMC) may be downloaded here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

ii) In cases where students miss work that is worth 30% or less of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean’s office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not submitted voluntarily then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will receive a grade of zero.

iii) Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

iv) Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

v) If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre’s services for accessible education at http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html.

vi) The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for accessing OWL materials for this class) is expressly prohibited. Students guilty of disrupting class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and will not be permitted to re-enter the class with their device until they can satisfactorily prove to the instructor that their device will no longer be a disruption.

vii) Other important dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day Holiday (classes excused)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4-10</td>
<td>Fall Reading Week (classes excused)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Classes end</td>
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<td>December 6-7</td>
<td>Study Days (classes excused)</td>
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<td>December 8-19</td>
<td>Examination period</td>
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