

2014

MUSC 280-01-02 Private Piano

Sonya Szabo-Reynolds

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XAVIER UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS
PRIVATE PIANO (MUSC 280-01 & 280-02)
FALL 2014

Instructor: Sonya Szabo Reynolds
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Office Hour: by appointment

Course Objective:

Private Piano is a course of study designed to advance technical and stylistic skills at the keyboard.

Method of Study:

The method of study is set up in half hour or hourly private lessons. A one-hour lesson is a requirement for piano majors. It is highly recommended piano minors take an hour lesson. A half hour or one hour lesson is an option for music majors studying piano as a secondary instrument and non-music majors taking private piano lessons.

Class Requirements and Grading:

Grades will be based on *attendance and weekly lesson preparation*. Music majors and minors are also graded on performance at board exams at the end of each semester (see under "Performance" below). Lesson material includes the following components:

1. Technique
 - Technique exercises will be assigned weekly according to the student's level of ability, and may comprise scales, arpeggios, exercises (Hanon, Czerny, etc.), etudes, etc.
 - Proper fingering in assigned repertoire is expected.
 - Fingernails must be kept trimmed to enable good technique.
2. Repertoire
 - Prompt acquisition of assigned music, text, etc. is the responsibility of the student. Please note that the on-going use of photocopies is not permitted. A list of recommended sources for obtaining music is located at the end of this syllabus.
 - Preparation and progress of assigned repertoire will be evaluated on a weekly basis.
 - The quality and quantity of material prepared will be evaluated each week.
 - Memorization may be required at the discretion of the instructor.
3. Musicianship
 - Improvement in stylistic skills such as touch and tone production, dynamics, phrasing and pedaling will be evaluated each week.

- Assignments may be given to increase your comprehension of music theory as it pertains to your pieces (for example recognition of key signatures, chords, musical form, musical terminology, and note reading.)

4. Performance

- Music majors who have not yet satisfied the requirements of their piano proficiency exam and senior recital must perform a board exam at the end of each semester. (Board requirements include a solo piece or pieces and scales and cadences, as determined by the instructor.) Board exam is worth 25% of final grade (75 % based on weekly lesson preparation). Music Majors with piano as their primary instrument must perform on one student recital each semester.
- Music minors with piano as their primary instrument must perform a board exam at the end of each semester and play on at least one student recital per year. (Board requirements include a solo piece or pieces and scales and cadences, as determined by the instructor.) Board exam is worth 25% of final grade (75 % based on weekly lesson preparation).

Attendance:

Attendance is essential. Letter grade will be discounted one-half grade per each unexcused absence. The instructor is not obligated to make up absences. If you must miss a lesson, please notify instructor as soon as possible in advance of the scheduled lesson.

Practice: Recommended practice time is listed below according to level. Consistent regular practice is essential and expected. Please note that practice should be done on a quality acoustic piano with functioning pedals.

- Beginners: 30-40 minutes, 5 times a week
- Intermediates: 40-60 minutes, 5 times a week
- Advanced: 60-90+ minutes, 6 times a week

Additional Requirements for Music Majors and Minors:

Music majors and minors are required to attend a minimum of five (5) musical events per semester (one of which may be an off-campus event) and have those events recorded in the office at the end of each semester. Xavier’s Classical Piano recital series is highly recommended for piano students.

For schedule and list of artists, see <http://www.xavier.edu/musicseries/>

Suggested sources for obtaining assigned music:

- www.sheetmusicplus.com
- www.virtualsheetmusic.com
- http://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page