

Course Syllabus Studio Piano

MVK 1411, 2421, 3431, 3970, 4441, 4971; MVO 6250, 6460, 7461; MUS 7951
Spring 2026

Instructor

Dr. Evan Mitchell

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Office: MUB 346

Office Hours: Tuesdays & 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 or the Keyboard Lab (143).

Important Dates

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| January 20-21 | Guest artist: Hung-Kuan Chen (Juilliard) Recital: *Tuesday*, 7:20pm, MUB 101 Masterclass: *Wednesday, 1:55pm*, MUB 101 |
| January 31 | Faculty chamber concert, Dr. Mitchell piano trio with Dr. Lower and Dr. Thomas, 7:20pm, MUB 101 |
| February 9-10 | Guest artist: pianist Dr. Ieva Jokubaviciute and composer Dr. Scott Lindroth (Duke University) Recital: 2/9 at 7:20pm, MUB 101 Masterclass: 2/10 at 12:50pm, MUB 101 |
| March 2-6 | Midterms (during lesson times) |
| March 4 | Dr. Mitchell recital with Dr. Thomas (cello), 7:20pm, MUB 101 |
| March 8 | Studio recital, 5:10pm, MUB 101 |
| March 9 | Kwangho Lee MM recital, 7:20pm, MUB 101 |
| March 10 | Pedagogy masterclass (during studio class) |

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| April 2 | UFSO featuring Undral Erdenechuulgan, Mozart Concerto K. 488, 7:20pm, UA |
| April 3 | Liam Connor junior recital, 5:10pm, MUB 101 |
| April 5 | YunHan Shen junior recital, 7:20pm, MUB 101 |
| April 11 | Sara Abdo junior recital, 12:50pm, MUB 101 |
| April 12 | Taylor Godwin junior recital, 12:50pm, MUB 101 |
| April 15 | Kendall Williams junior recital, 5:10pm, MUB 101 |
| April 19 | Shiyi Zhu DMA recital #2, 7:20pm, MUB 101 |
| April 28 | 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 and weekly lesson grades will reflect unexcused studio class absences. 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. Our final studio class of the semester will represent a miniature studio recital or mock jury (for those completing a jury), in which all students will perform.

Checkpoints and Pedagogy Masterclass

Undergraduate students will perform two “checkpoints” during the semester, to be announced 1-2 weeks in advance. The content will vary depending on course number/degree standing. Graduate students will give a short teaching demonstration during studio class time.

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.

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. **NOTE:** for students performing a degree recital this semester, the studio recital will be optional. In this case, a grade will be entered for the studio recital that is the same percentage as the student's semester average at the end of the semester.

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 30 points for consistently demonstrating high standards of professionalism, including but not limited to:

- attending all lessons punctually and fully prepared;
- 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 repertoire selections 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. A recital hearing will be scheduled with the committee approximately three weeks before the recital, and program notes will be submitted prior to this. Students are expected to meet suggested deadlines with respect to learning and memorizing their repertoire. A grade will be assigned that reflects the preparation of repertoire and program notes, successful professional presentation at the recital, and diligent commitment to the process.

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 other guest artists featuring the piano. Written excuses will be required from those not in attendance, and a pattern of absences from these events will impact weekly lesson grades.

Grading

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

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| Weekly lessons (13): | 40 points each, 520 points possible |
| Checkpoints/teaching demo: | 120 points possible (two checkpoints, 60 points each) |
| Midterm: | 120 points possible |
| Studio recital: | 120 points possible |
| Final jury/recital: | 120 points possible |
| Professionalism bonus: | 30 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 1,030 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.

Grading Scale

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

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/>