

Course Syllabus
MVK 3702 Accompanying
Time: Tuesdays, 3rd-4th Period (9:35am-11:30am)
Location: MUB 121
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

Collaboration at the piano demands not only mastery of the skill set we refine daily in the practice room – solidity of pulse, a beautiful tone, technical ease – but also that we deploy these skills in perfect coordination with others. For two or more musicians to breathe, think, and interpret as one is our goal; collaborative playing is a great challenge, but the rewards can be great, too.

In this course, students will gain initial experience accompanying a wide range of instrumental and vocal literature. We will explore the imitation of orchestral effects at the keyboard in genres such as concerto and opera, interpret text through the study of art song, and master the fundamentals of collaboration such as cueing and rehearsal etiquette.

The Spring semester begins with several weeks of introductory topics, after which students will be paired with another instrumental or vocal major for focused collaboration. Several groups will perform weekly in class and the semester will culminate in a final performance.

Important Dates (subject to change)

January 31	Spectrum: Faculty Chamber Concert (Dr. Mitchell performing Arensky Piano Trio with Dr. Lower and Dr. Thomas), 7:20pm, MUB 101
February 17	Weekly in-class coachings begin
March 4	Dr. Mitchell recital with Dr. Thomas (cello), 7:20pm, MUB 101
March 24	Dr. Mitchell away; no class
April 21	Class recital, 9:35am, MUB 101

Assignments

Prior to starting coachings with and without partners, there will be a series of smaller assignments given 1-2 weeks in advance. These may consist of preparing repertoire excerpts, exploring collaborative and chamber literature, sightreading/speed-learning materials, and developing a vocabulary of terms and concepts essential to succeed in collaboration. Assignments will be explained in class at the time they are announced.

By the end of January, students will be assigned a partner with whom to collaborate. Students will be given until February 17 to prepare their own part and have at least one outside rehearsal with their partner. From February 17 through April 14, each week's class meeting will be conducted as a performance class in which several groups are assigned to play and receive a coaching while all other piano students observe. Each pianist will have at least two coachings (at least one solo and one with their partner).

Final performances will be held during the normal class meeting time on April 21. This should be treated as a recital in terms of preparation and attire. Students are responsible for communicating and reminding their partners of these expectations.

Attendance

Students are required to attend each week. One unexcused absence will not negatively impact a student's grade, but each additional unexcused absence will result in a half-letter deduction from the student's semester grade. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. Each student will be granted one tardy arrival (after 9:40am) without penalty, after which point every two subsequent tardy arrivals will receive the same penalty as one unexcused absence.

Expectations

Students will prepare thoughtfully for each class, practice assigned repertoire, and communicate with the instructor in a timely and professional manner. **Please** check email daily and read all messages carefully.

Grading

Students will be graded on a 100-point scale according to the following rubric:

Attendance:	3 points per class meeting (36 total points possible)
Assignments:	15 points each, averaged (15 points possible)
Concert attendance:	6 points each (12 points possible)
Coachings:	20 points each, averaged (20 points possible)
Final performance:	20 points possible
Total:	103 total points possible

Students must complete a minimum of two coachings (at least one individual and one with a duo partner) and the final performance in order to pass the course. Students who do not complete two coachings will receive a grade of E, and those who do not complete the final

performance will receive a grade of E. An Incomplete may be assigned at the instructor's discretion only if the final performance is missed due to emergency and a makeup cannot be arranged before the end of the semester. An Incomplete will not be assigned due to a student failing to complete two coachings.

Students may inquire about their standing in the class at any point during 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/>

Concert Attendance

Students are strongly encouraged to attend on-campus performances by students, faculty, and/or guest artists featuring collaborative piano. Attendance at a minimum of two concerts featuring collaborative piano is **required and graded**. Please check with me before attending to make sure a particular performance will count for this purpose. Submission of a printed program or timestamped selfie will be accepted.

Required Materials

Musical excerpts we will use in our assignments and mock rehearsals will be posted on Canvas and/or distributed in class or via email. Students are expected to print and organize these in a three-ring binder. Students are expected to own a hard copy (not just a printout, even of music in the public domain) of all assigned repertoire for coachings with their partner.

Additional Information

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>