

Course Syllabus
Studio Piano
MVK 1411, 2421, 3431, 3970, 4441, 4971; MVO 6460, 7460
Spring 2025

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

January 16	Guest recital: Dr. Svetozar Ivanov (USF), 7:20pm, MUB 101
January 21-22	Guest residency: Kenneth Hamilton (U. of Cardiff) Lecture: 1/21, 12:50-1:40pm, MUB 101 Recital: 1/21, 7:20pm, MUB 101 Masterclass: 1/22, 5:10-6:40pm, MUB 101
January 24	Dr. Mitchell faculty recital, 7:20pm, MUB 101
February 3	Guest recital: Dr. Ellen Elder (U. of Southern Mississippi), 7:20pm, MUB 101
February 6	Faculty chamber concert, 7:20pm, MUB 101
February 10	Guest recital: Dr. Yerin Kim (Central Washington U.), 7:20pm, MUB 101
February 11	Kwangho Lee student recital, 5:10pm, MUB 101
February 23	Dr. Tu faculty recital, 3:00pm, MUB 101

February 27	UFSO featuring Shiyi Zhu (Rach. 3rd Concerto), 7:20pm, University Auditorium
March 3-7	Midterms (during lesson times)
March 3	Guest recital: Dr. Asher Armstong (U. of Toronto), 7:20pm, MUB 101
March 6	Faculty concert: music of Dr. Paul Richards, 7:20pm, MUB 101
March 10-14	Checkpoints (during lesson times)
March 11	Pedagogy masterclass (during studio class)
April 7	Guest recital: Dr. Richard Masters (Virginia Tech), 7:20pm, MUB 101
April 13	Yvonne Le junior recital, 3:00pm, MUB 101
April 15	Guest masterclass: Dr. Alexandre Dossin (U. of Oregon), MUB 143, 1:00-3:00pm
April 19	Studio recital, 12:50pm, MUB 101
April 19	Shiyi Zhu DMA recital #1, 7:20pm, MUB 101
April 23	Preston Jarvis junior recital, 5:10pm, MUB 101
April 29	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 a “checkpoint” during the semester, to be announced several 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 mandatory 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.

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

- 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.

Concert Attendance

Students are required to attend Piano Area performances as specified, and are expected/strongly encouraged to attend on-campus performances by students, faculty, and/or 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:

Weekly lessons (13):	40 points each, 520 points possible
Checkpoint/teaching demo:	100 points possible
Midterm:	120 points possible
Studio recital:	120 points possible
Jury/recital:	120 points possible
Professionalism bonus:	50 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.

In-Class Recording

Recording practice sessions and lessons can be extraordinarily helpful for students to not only track their progress, but to remind themselves of what to practice each week and to become more self-aware in listening to their own playing. Unless a student provides a valid exemption on personal or religious grounds, all lessons are video recorded for the student to review following the lesson. These recordings are never shared publicly.

Please note that at UF, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email

they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conductcode/

On-Line Student Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/