

Piano Pedagogy Course Offerings

MUS 660-340/547 Piano Pedagogy I. This course is designed to introduce pianists to the art of teaching through discussions, lectures, and assignments, which explore teaching techniques, materials and methods, appropriate for the beginning and elementary piano student. Students will be given opportunities for practice teaching and observation in both private and group settings in order to gain practical experience.

MUS 660-548 Piano Pedagogy II. Prerequisites: Pedagogy I (340/547) or permission of instructor. This advanced course in piano pedagogy is designed to provide an in-depth study of materials, repertoire, musical and technical development, and curriculum planning for the intermediate/advanced pre-college student. Students will have an opportunity in a seminar setting to observe/conduct master classes, adjudicate competitions, and discuss various topics pertaining to piano pedagogy.

MUS 660-551 Class Piano Pedagogy. This course is designed to prepare the graduate student to teach college level and adult students in a group setting, with emphasis on the beginning to intermediate levels of repertoire and musicianship skills. Whenever possible, the course is integrated with teaching responsibilities in a section of university piano classes.

MUS 660-560 Practicum in Advanced Studio Teaching. Graduate student in Piano Pedagogy and Performance only. This course is designed to give the graduate student the opportunity to team-teach an advanced college student with UW faculty. Students will help choose repertoire and design an individualized curriculum for the private student.

MUS 660-751 Seminar in Piano Pedagogy (topics course)

- Optimal Performance and Biomechanics. Prerequisites: Graduate student in Piano or permission instructor. A practical course aimed at assisting pianists in developing strategies for preparing themselves physically to achieve their maximal performance potential. The course will include components in basic anatomy, physical fitness, healthy body alignment, injury prevention, somatic awareness, and apply those principles to teaching. We will examine current resources and research on developing a healthful piano technique such as Taubman/Golandsky, Lister-Sink, Mark, Riley, Fraser, and others. Each participant will also work with a surface electromyography (sEMG) device that measures muscle tension through electronic activity. Use of sEMG biofeedback has proven successful in raising awareness of excess muscle tension and retraining artists to maintain healthier levels of activity and rest in the required tension-relaxation cycle of music making. In an effort to improve somatic awareness, we will explore ways of incorporating movement experiences into the piano lesson. Weekly somatic sessions will serve as a means of improving pianists' alignment and body connectivity, and, equally important, as a way to deepen musical performance.

- College Piano Teaching. Prerequisites: DMA student in Piano or permission instructor. This advanced course in piano pedagogy is designed to explore the various options for teaching piano at the college level in the following areas: applied piano (majors and secondaries), piano pedagogy, piano literature, and collaborative piano. This course will examine materials, repertoire, musical and technical development, and sequential curriculum planning for the college piano student. This course will also explore facets of preparing and interviewing for a college teaching position. Students will have an opportunity in a seminar setting to observe/conduct masterclasses, present lectures suitable for a job interview, and participate in mock interviews.

- Intermediate and Advanced Teaching Repertoire. Prerequisites: Graduate student in piano or permission instructor. This advanced course in piano pedagogy is designed to provide a critical survey of piano teaching materials for the intermediate and advanced pre-college student. All music is analyzed from the perspective of performance, technical requirements and musicianship. Readings and research will address intermediate to advanced teaching repertoire. Students will be given opportunities to develop curriculum and select materials for intermediate-advanced level students. Students will be given opportunities to observe and team-teach an intermediate to advanced-level pre-college student.

- Teaching Elementary Piano Pedagogy. Prerequisites: Graduate student in piano or permission instructor. This advanced course in piano pedagogy is designed to examine teaching methods, materials, repertoire, and curriculum planning for an introductory undergraduate piano pedagogy course. Readings and research will address early childhood development as it relates to elementary piano study. Students will be given opportunities to develop curriculum and select materials for a beginning group piano class. In addition, each student will assist with the supervision of undergraduate student teaching in both private and group settings (students enrolled in Piano Ped. I-660/340).

- Historical Perspectives on Piano Teaching and the Evolution of Piano Technique. Prerequisites: Graduate student in piano or permission instructor. This advanced course in piano pedagogy is designed to provide an in-depth chronological exploration of the historical evolution of keyboard pedagogy and technique. Students will have an opportunity in a seminar setting to research and discuss the great keyboard teachers of the past, their legacies, and the impact each had on the development of piano teaching and technique. Weekly preparation for class will

involve extensive reading and research of relevant sources, including historical treatises, documented correspondences, historic recordings/videos, etc. Students will explore further specific areas of interest in the field of historical pedagogy, focusing on chosen topics for guided research culminating in a paper suitable for publication in a journal and a corresponding workshop presentation. In addition, students will observe UW-Madison applied faculty (one non-keyboard) and write an evaluation of teaching techniques, approaches, influences, etc.

MUS 660-752 Piano Pedagogy Workshop. This course is designed to assist the DMA student in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in developing a pedagogical workshop for piano teachers. Students will be expected to engage in rigorous research in an approved area of keyboard pedagogy. Students will observe and evaluate effective workshop strategies and how they contribute to an effective presentation. The research will culminate in a public workshop, 60-90 minutes in length. The public workshop may be presented off-campus, subject to the approval of the major professor. A videotape of the workshop must be submitted in the event that the major professor cannot be present.

MUS 660-799 Directed Study in Piano Pedagogy. This course is designed to give the graduate student the opportunity to conduct research on a topic of interest within the area of piano pedagogy. Research culminates in a document and public workshop.