

Instructor's name: Dr. Josu De Solaun (pronounced Deh Saw-láoon)

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INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCES-PIANO SYLLABUS PIAN 1201, PIAN 3201, PIAN 5201  
CREDIT HRS: 2  
FALL 2017

CLASS MEETING TIME (Room 331): It is the student's responsibility to schedule his/ her piano lesson time with the faculty.

OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 1pm - 8pm, Room 331

STUDIO CLASS: Selected Tuesdays, 4pm- 5pm Recital Hall. Attendance mandatory

PIANO STUDIO RECITAL: Exact day and time TBA soon. ALL STUDENTS MUST PERFORM A PIECE OR MORE IN THIS RECITAL.

REPERTOIRE FOR FINAL EXAM: Piano Performance students are required to play 20-30 minutes worth of music, memorized, for their piano juries (final exam) at the end of each semester, plus major and minor scales and arpeggios.

Composition, Music Education, and Music Therapy majors are required to prepare 10-15 minutes of memorized music per semester, plus major and minor scales and arpeggios.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course, designed for undergraduate and graduate piano majors, earns them two hours of credit per semester. In it, the students will be learning fundamentals of piano technique, musicianship and performance: performance techniques, memorization techniques, and practice techniques. Great emphasis is placed in developing an individual methodology for the process of learning repertoire from the sight-reading stage to the concert performance. The individual lessons are enhanced by weekly studio classes in which the students get to try out their skills in the practical context of a performance in a concert hall.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the individual piano lessons course is to help each student improve their musical and technical piano skills. The student is trained to develop the technical skills necessary to become an eloquent, communicative musician and performer. Ultimately, this course is designed to equip the student with the tools necessary to work in the professional arena upon graduation, as either professional concert artists, music educators, music therapists, or collaborative artists. A great emphasis is placed on learning how to correctly abstract musical meaning from a score.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will improve his/her ability to learn new pieces, to perform them, and to be able to teach this same process to others. The student will learn how to practice efficiently, learning time management skills as well as different practice and memorization techniques. The student will become equipped to function successfully in the professional music world.

## EXIT COMPETENCIES/REQUIREMENTS:

Requirement for competency in completing the course in independent piano lessons is determined by the following criteria:

The student must achieve a grade of B- or above for each of the required four semesters. A grade of C for the final semester grade will result in the repetition of the course. GRADING CRITERIA

The semester grade will be determined as following:

Weekly lessons/Studio Class Midterm: 50%  
Juries (Final Exam)/Studio Recital: 50%

## STUDIO CLASS

Attendance is required to all studio classes. Students must perform a minimum of 3 times per semester (three different pieces). Students should bring at least 2 copies of the music they will perform that day in class. All scores must have measure numbers written in.

## STUDIO RECITAL

There will be a final concert at the end of the semester with the piano students involved in this course. Attendance for the dress rehearsal and concert is mandatory. Failure to do so will be reflected upon the student's grade.

## PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

The student is allowed to play his/her pieces with the music for the first four lessons. By the fifth lesson the pieces should be played by memory with correct fingerings.

Upright pianos and baby grand pianos are located on the 1st floor of the School of Music. These pianos are maintained regularly, and should be used by students for practicing. It is expected that performance majors will practice a minimum (for a C Grade) of 4 hours per day in preparation for class, seven days a week. For an A Grade, it is expected that a performance major will practice a minimum of 6 hours per day, seven days a week. Non-performance majors are expected to practice 1 hour a day, seven days a week, for a C Grade, and 2 hours a day, seven days a week for an A Grade. If a student is unable to master the skills and concepts as presented, he/she should do the following, in order:

- a) Review his/her practice habits
- b) Review his/her practice goals: Are they written out? Are they specific, measurable, attainable, realistic?
- c) Schedule an appointment with the instructor for extra tutoring

## ABSENCE POLICY

Students should inform the professor in advance of reasons for necessary absences (medical, etc.). Failure to inform the professor may result in an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences are not permissible in PIAN courses, and such absences may re-

sult in a lowering of the semester grade.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work..

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these pro- grams nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain North Annex location. The SSD contact information (voice 936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786; e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); web [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability)).

**IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT STUDIO CLASS:**

- a) Attendance is Mandatory
- b) Always bring a binder and a notebook
- c) Those who play must be dressed in concert attire
- d) Be ready to talk (briefly) about your piece before playing it
- e) The class will start with the performance, and then we will all have discussions on performance techniques, practicing techniques, memorization techniques, and piano technique in general