

Sam Houston State University
HARP 1201: Applied Harp Lessons

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Alaina Graiser, Adjunct Instructor of Harp

Email: asg044@shsu.edu

Office: Music Building Practice Studio 19 (office hours by appointment only)

Course Information

Harp Lesson Day/Time: To be arranged

Harp Studio Class Day/Time: Thursday, 2:00-3:00pm

Location: Music Building Practice Studio 19

Credit Hours: 2

Course Description and Activities

Applied Harp Lessons will explore and cultivate exceptional harp performance skills as pertaining to the technique and interpretation of solo, chamber, and orchestral works. Lessons may also include studies in sightreading, ear training, and repertoire studies. Harp Studio Class may include lecture and activities pertaining to harp history, harp around the world, harp ensemble, harp pedagogy, harp business and more.

Students are expected to:

- Arrive for lessons and studio class on time and fully prepared.
- Practice the concepts previously discussed and display notable progress on said concepts. If a student consistently shows up unprepared without having made progress on previously discussed concepts, then this will be reflected in the semester grade (see grade guidelines below).
- Engage in discussion and activities in harp studio class.
- Bring relevant materials to every lesson (music, ensemble music, notebook, pencil).
- Responsibly utilize the practice room sign-up notebook and key. The key's location must be accounted for at all times. See locker, notebook, and key use details below.
- Wear harp-appropriate clothes and shoes.
- Keep Studio 19 clean and straight at all times. Only harp-related materials may be stored in the practice room.
- Utilize efficient and effective practice and performance strategies (to be discussed in lessons).
- Consistently include harp practice in their schedules:
 - Block off practice time that is consistent.
 - Allow enough practice time for focused, productive work: **a minimum of 5 hours per week is suggested for non-major students.**
 - Keep practice sessions as focused and efficient as possible; prevent distractions from interrupting practice.
- Be mindful of and open to a variety of technical and artistic perspectives.
- When learning new pieces, first listen to recordings and translate all foreign words.
- Write measure numbers in all personal copies of solo and chamber parts (with each movement numbered individually).

- Prepare ensemble parts thoroughly BEFORE the first rehearsal and maintain the parts diligently thereafter.
- Demonstrate promptness and professionalism for all SHSU events, including rehearsals.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is required for all schedule lessons and studio classes. Each student is permitted one absence for lessons and one absence for studio class without penalty.

After one absence, your final grade will be lowered one letter grade per absence. Tardies or early exits will be counted as absences per the instructor's discretion. In cases of illness or emergency, please contact me via email as soon as possible and a make-up lesson will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time.

Grading Distribution

- Consistent progress in applied lessons = 50%
- Participation in harp studio class = 25%
- Participation in end-of-semester performance/jury = 25%

(see additional grade guidelines below).

End-of-Semester Performance/Jury

Students will participate in an end-of-semester harp studio performance (which counts as a jury performance) at a community location TBA on a day/time that is mutually agreed-upon by the studio. Solo and ensemble pieces will be performed. If a student is unable to attend, he/she must arrange a separate performance of his/her solo material to fulfill the course's jury requirements.

Practice Studio 19 Key Protocol

The key protocol for the harp room is as follows: The harp studio (as a single unit) will be assigned a locker in the music building. The harp studio room key will be in the locker in a pocket in a notebook. Students will check out the key by marking their practice time in the notebook. **You are to keep the key with you at all times during your indicated practice session (including locking the room and carrying the key with you for restroom and/or water breaks), and the key MUST be returned to the notebook pocket at the end of your practice session. Under no circumstances is the key to be taken out of the music building or with you to class/rehearsal in the music building.** This will ensure that everyone will have access to the room when they need to practice (and keep the practice schedule clear and organized), and will ensure that if someone needs to access the room, the key will either be in the locker or with whoever is actually in the room at the time. Details of practice sign-ups, durations, and more will be determined at our first harp class.

Studio Class Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

01/18: Welcome, All-About-Harp, Practice Strategies, Storytelling with the Harp

01/25: Harp Evolution Through Time and Space

02/01: Baroque and Classical Harp

02/08: Romantic and French Harp

02/15: Contemporary Harp

02/22: Harp Pedagogy: Sequencing and Curriculum

03/01: Harp Pedagogy: Strategies and Foci
03/08: Harp Studio Masterclass
03/15: Spring Break
03/22: Harp Pedagogy: Pacing, Games, and Activities in Lessons
03/29: Harp Pedagogy: Mock Lessons (students teach)
04/05: Harp Ensemble: Rehearsal 1
04/12: Harp Ensemble: Rehearsal 2
04/19: Harp Ensemble: Rehearsal 3
04/26: Harp Ensemble: Rehearsal 4
05/03: Harp Ensemble Dress Rehearsal and Masterclass
TBD: Community Performance/Jury

Grading Guidelines for Applied Lessons

A: The student consistently meets or exceeds the goals set forth in each lesson, and demonstrates satisfactory growth over the course of the semester. If students are consistently on time and prepared for their lessons, respectfully follow instructions, and practice diligently and sufficiently, there is no reason for them to receive a grade lower than 'A.'

B: The student meets the goals set forth in each lesson more often than not, and demonstrates some growth over the course of the semester. This grade is given to students who do enough to meet their basic overall goals for the semester, but who clearly need to give more effort in order to get the most out of their lessons and overall education.

C: The student has trouble consistently meeting the goals set forth in each lesson, and demonstrates marginal growth over the course of the semester. This grade is given to students who often only give enough effort to meet the bare minimum expectations, and should be taken as a "wake-up call" that they need to show significant improvement in order to avoid even lower grades in the future.

D: The student rarely meets the goals set forth in each lesson, and demonstrates little or no growth over the course of the semester. This grade is given to students who need to take a hard look at themselves and decide if harp study is a good fit for them, and whether or not they are able to drastically alter their study and practice habits accordingly.

F: The student almost never meets any goals set forth in each lesson, and demonstrates no growth (or regression) over the course of the semester. This grade is given to students who, in the eyes of the faculty, have routinely demonstrated that they do not possess the tools necessary to successfully pursue harp study at this point.

*NOTE: Dr. Graiser sets lesson goals for each student and evaluates/grades their progress based solely on their INDIVIDUAL potential versus performance; students should not consider the progress of their peers as a comparative indicator of their own performance.