



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

MUSI 4301.003 – TOPICS IN MUSIC STUDIES SPRING 2025 – TUESDAYS 11:00-12:00 – CLASSROOM HALL 301

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Martha Saywell

COURSE NUMBER: 25234

DEPARTMENT: Language, Literature, and Arts

EMAIL: martha.saywell@tamusa.edu

PHONE: 210-784-2563

OFFICE LOCATION: Classroom Hall 314H

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment, in-person Monday-Thursday or online Monday-Friday

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of piano proficiency through a diverse selection of styles, repertoire, and performance techniques.

COURSE GOALS:

- Learn and perform level-appropriate repertoire
- Refine sightreading, transposition, and/or harmonization skills
- Demonstrate applied music theory through technical exercises

MATERIALS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

- Music scores will be provided by the instructor.
- Pencil
- Folder with pockets to collect and organize print materials for easy accessibility
- Access to an acoustic piano or full-sized electronic piano with weighted keys and pedal

ATTENDANCE:

- Due to the customized nature of the course, weekly attendance is mandatory. In the event of a necessary absence, the student must provide notice to the instructor well in advance. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence will result in a grade reduction.
- Weekly meetings may or may not be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

ASSESSMENT:

- Weekly meetings = 80%
The instructor will assess progress each week during the regularly scheduled meeting time and introduce new concepts and materials as appropriate. Students are expected to take an active role in this process.
- Journal = 10%
Practice is the key to success and students should plan to practice a minimum of four days each week, not counting the day of instruction. Students will submit a weekly journal entry that tracks their practice habits and identifies questions or concerns.
- Performance presentation = 10%
Students will give a brief performance presentation of repertoire for a selected audience.

GRADING SCALE:

- 90% or higher = A
- 80% to 89% = B
- 70% to 79% = C
- 60% to 69% = D
- Below 60% = F

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Tuesday, January 21 – Welcome and syllabus review, game plan development
- April 10 – optional performance opportunity at Brick at Blue Star during the LLA department's Arts Expo event

COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS:

- All official communications from the University will be distributed through Jaguar email accounts. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain a Jaguar email account and check that address on a regular basis.
- Email is monitored Monday-Friday during standard business hours. Please allow at least two business days for email replies.
- Difficulties with Jaguar email, Blackboard, or other IT services should be addressed through the Office of Information Technology Services in Room 233 of the Central Academic Building. They can also be reached at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or 210-784-4357.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

- TAMUSA Academic Misconduct Policy: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the

instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy: All work submitted by students should be generated by the students themselves. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using AI tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.
- All materials are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software and AI detection software. Instances of academic dishonesty result in an automatic grade of '0'.

EXTRACURRICULAR MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- Interested in mariachi? **Mariachi Los Jaguares Del Sur** is dedicated to honoring and preserving the art of mariachi music. The group prides itself on a shared love of music, performance, and Mexican culture. If you are interested in joining, visit JagSync 2.0 to sign up and/or email advisor Amelia Guzman at aguzman@tamusa.edu for more information.
- Interested in band? The **San Antonio Community Wind Ensemble** meets in the TAMUSA Auditorium on Sunday afternoons and gives several concerts throughout the year. Membership dues are waived for all TAMUSA students. If you are interested in joining, email director Albert Aguilar at sacwe@crossmen.org for more information.
- Interested in orchestra? The **Strings Club** is a place for students on campus who are interested in classical orchestral music and a place to play their instruments. While currently practicing as a small ensemble, the group strives to grow into an orchestra. If you are interested in joining, visit JagSync 2.0 to sign up and/or email student org president Leopoldo (Leo) Esquibel at lesqu05@jaguar.tamu.edu for more information.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

Additional university resources and policies can be found on Blackboard under the Syllabus module. These include, but are not limited to, accommodations for persons with disabilities, counseling and mental health resources, the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center, Military Affairs, and important dates.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified as soon as possible of any changes.