# The University of Texas at El Paso
# Department of Music
Course Syllabus

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### Course Information

MUSA 1195: Piano Individual Studies
CRN: 27866
Term: Spring 2026
Delivery Method: In-person
Meeting Day and Time: I will set an individual lesson time that works with your schedule.
Location: Fox Fine Arts - Music (FFA-Music), Room 338

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Nayeli Dousa
Written Communication: Email
Email: nayelil@utep.edu
Office Location: Fox Fine Arts Building, M338
Office Hours:

- Face-to-face: TBA by appointment only.
- Virtual: Through Zoom, by appointment only.

## Course Description

The course will focus on the study and performance of solo repertoire of different style periods and technical exercises such as scales, arpeggios and etudes. The meetings will be 50 minutes in length, once a week.

## Course Goal

Achieve the highest level of performance of the selected repertoire and technical studies assigned for the semester. Through commitment to the instrument, discipline, daily practice, and hard work, develop adequate practicing habits to improve week after week and complete the assigned repertoire.

## Objectives

- To master all major and minor scales and arpeggios and selected technical exercises according to the needs of each student and level.
- To improve technical skills, finger dexterity, coordination, memorization techniques, and musicality through the study and performance of assigned repertoire. Every week the student should demonstrate that he/she has incorporated many of the musical and technique aspects worked and discussed in class.

- To incorporate all elements of music (theory, history, performance practice, and analysis) into the study of repertoire and sight-reading.
- To improve sight reading skills by practicing sight-reading daily (a minimum of 5 pages, every day, every week, all semester long!).
- To think critically and constantly reflect on performance goals, constructive criticism in lessons, and achievements.
- To develop the sense of curiosity to acquire knowledge of composers' lives and works to gain insight on the repertoire and composers studied during the semester.
- To perform publicly in different settings to gain experience as a performer.

## Materials

- Metronome or metronome app
- Scores of all assigned repertoire — no photocopies will be allowed.
- You can purchase your scores through: www.amazon.com, www.sheetmusicplus.com, www.jwpepper.com
- You can check out scores temporarily from the music library and use them only while you receive your own scores or print public domain scores from www.imslp.org

### Repertoire

The repertoire to study will be selected at the beginning of the semester and will include works from different time periods, from Baroque to 21st century.

## Practice expectations

A minimum of **4 hours** per day is expected.

## Attendance

- Attendance is necessary to do well in the class and improve week after week. Only 1 unexcused absence is allowed during the semester. The final grade will be dropped by 5 points for every unexcused absence thereafter. PLEASE, be on time at your assigned lesson time and plan to warm up at least 30 minutes before your lesson.
- It is required to be present in ALL weekly lessons, master classes, departmental recitals, guest artists, and keyboard faculty recitals.
- Notification of excused absences should be, if possible, given to the instructor in advance. Proper documentation is necessary for excused absences.
- Attendance is required for all examinations. No make-ups will be given unless the instructor is notified in advance, with proper documentation.
- **Attendance to final jury is mandatory.** An absence to the final jury will result in failing the class.

## Examinations and Grading

Your grade will be based on the performance of your final jury, midterm exam, public performances, and assignments throughout the semester.

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|---|---|
| Final jury | 70% |
| Midterm | 20% |
| Public performances (such as area recital) | 10% |

## Grading Scale

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

### Additional materials

There are many available resources (such as websites, books, articles, and videos) that can help you stay focused and motivated, and that can inspire you to learn more about piano playing, pianists, composers, technique and musicianship. Look for them! Here is a short list of some materials that can be of your interest:

**Websites:**

http://www.epso.org / El Paso Symphony Orchestra
http://elpasopromusica.org / El Paso Pro Musica
http://www.lascrucessymphony.com
www.medici.tv
www.philharmonia.co.uk
http://pianoeducation.org
www.carnegiehall.org

**Books** available at the UTEP main library:

Anderson, R P. The Pianist's Craft: Mastering the Works of Great Composers / edited by Lanham, Md. : Scarecrow Press, 2012.

Berman, B. Notes from the Pianist's Bench. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.

Gillespie, John. Five Centuries of Keyboard Music; a historical survey of music for harpsichord and piano. New York, Dover Publications, 1972.

Hinson, M. The Pianist's Dictionary. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004.

Johannesen, G. Journey of an American Pianist. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2007.

Newman, W. S. The Pianist's Problems: a Modern Approach to Efficient Practice and Musical Performance. New York: Da Capo Press, 1984.

Ortmann, O.R. The Physiological Mechanics of Piano Technique: an Experimental Study of the Nature of Muscular Action as Used in Piano Playing, and of the Effects thereof upon the Piano Key and the Piano Tone. New York: Da Capo Press, 1981.

Reubart, Dale. Anxiety and Musical Performance: on Playing the Piano from Memory, New York: Da Capo Press, 1985.

Scionti, S. Essays on Artistic Piano Playing and Other Topics. Denton, Tex: University of North Texas Press, 1998.

Whiteside, Abby. Indispensables of Piano Playing. New York, Scribner, 1961.

Podsakoff, J. and Rosoff, S. Mastering the Chopin Études and Other Essays. New York, C. Scribner's Sons, 1969.

Walker, G. Reminiscences of an American Composer and Pianist. Lanham, Md: Scarecrow Press, 2009.

Wolcott, M. I. Piano, the Instrument: an Annotated Bibliography. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2001.

**The information on this syllabus is subject to change*