

	Department of Music MUE 3013 Teaching Private Lessons 2 units
Fall 2026	

Meeting day: Mon-Wed	Instructor title and name: Dr. Victor Labenske
Meeting times: 5:00-5:55	Phone: 619-602-1690
Meeting location: Cooper 128	Email: vlabensk@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: M 12/14 7:30-10 <u>PM</u>	Office location and hours:
	M – Tu – W – Th – F – We might also arrange to meet over lunch (Tu,Th, F)

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the methods and materials used in teaching the piano, with special emphasis upon teaching elementary students and the adult beginner. Includes observation of private and class piano teaching.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

for B. A. in Performance: Demonstrates essential knowledge of the literature and pedagogy of the principal performance area

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the eighth lesson taught, student will develop proficiency for at least 3 of the rubric items and be advanced for at least one:

- delivery skills
- sound-feel-symbol-name

- teaching techniques
- practice instructions
- student skills
- sequence of instruction
- materials

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- *Jacobson, Jeanine M. Professional Piano Teaching. 2nd Edition. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred, 2015.*
- *Method books, to be determined*

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

a. Quizzes and Group Work	20%	A=93-100 A-=92-90 B+=87-89 B=83-86 B-=80-82 C+=77-79 C =73-76 C- =70-72 D+ =67-69 D =63-66 D- =60-62 F =0-59	
b. Method Reviews	10%		
c. Observation Reports	20%		
d. Midterm and Final Exam	15%		
e. Professional Involvement	5%		
f. Teaching	25%		
g. Evaluation by Peers	5%		

Grade will be reduced by 40% if student does not have proof [of joining MTNA](#) by the end of the semester.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for *one* of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests

GENERAL COURSE CONCERNS

If you have a concern related to the content or structure of this course, please bring your concern(s) to me (the instructor) in a timely manner, so that we have the opportunity to discuss your thoughts and work together toward a solution.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will lose 10% for each calendar day late. They will not be accepted after the class meeting following the due date. This type of regularity allows the students to receive prompt feedback.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

9/1	Beginning Methods Overview	Ch. 3
9/8	Lisa Bastien in class (ends at 4:30)/Method work	pp. 364-73
9/15	Phillip Keveren in class/Method work	Ch. 2
9/22	Principles of Learning/Method work	Ch. 4
9/29	Teaching Elementary Students	
10/6	Teaching Rhythm and Reading/ Post-Interview Discussion	Ch. 5
10/6	Bastien Trip (3-8 PM ; there 4:30-6:30; <i>hoping for Starbucks on the way and Chipotle on the way home, my treat</i>)	
10/13	Teaching Technique and Tone Production (teach lesson #1 week of 10/9)	Ch. 6 Observations Hrs. Due
10/20	MIDTERM EXAM/FALL BREAK Elementary Repertoire (discussion board project outside class)	Ch. 7
10/27	Developing Musicality	Ch. 8
11/3	Prof. Steve Cosentino , CPA in Class/ The Business of Piano Teaching/ Associations and Testing Opportunities	Ch. 13 Observations Hrs. Due
11/10	Trip to Wagner's Music School (2:25-5 PM ; there 2:45-4)	
11/17	Teaching Preschoolers – Methods	Ch. 9
11/24	THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class	
12/1	Adult learners	Ch. 10
12/8	Present games & internet resources/ Final Summary	Observations Hrs. Due on 12/13

Assignments:

a. Quizzes and Group Work:

We may have unannounced reading quizzes on assigned material due each day. You also will present teaching projects featuring elementary supplementary teaching pieces and games. Studio Policy is due on September 28. Students earn up to 5 discussion points for attendance at each class session in Canvas Readiness for class; points will be subtracted for distractions including phone visible during class.

b. Method Review:

The class will complete a review of 2 methods from the list below in mid-September:

- Alfred Premiere
- Bastien New Traditions
- Faber Piano Adventures
- Hal Leonard

c. Observation Reports:

5 hours of observation are required.

Rubric and form for each lesson must be submitted on Canvas within 1 week of observation.

Deadlines: 2 hrs by 10/14, 2 hrs by 11/4, 1 hours by 12/13.

- Observe at least 5 teachers this semester. Two teachers must be off-campus – not PLNU faculty or students (from the approved list...if you wish to observe a different teacher, please obtain Dr. Labenske's approval first). One will be Lori Bastien Vickers during our class visit to her studio.
- Observe both private and class instruction. (Observe class instruction both at Lori Bastien's and in Class Piano I)
- Observe 3 hours of children's lessons
- Observe 1 hour of adult lessons (You will do this in Class Piano I)
- Observe 1 hour (half –hour lessons) taught by 2 classmates (live or videotape). Share your observations with each other. You are encouraged to observe as many class members as you can (counts as “on-campus”) and to share your learning experiences together.
- You must use the evaluation forms on Canvas. The following resources from our textbook may also supplement our assigned form if you wish to add additional information to evaluate the lessons you observe.
 - p. 396-400
 - p. 402-03
 - p. 406 (bottom) – for group lessons

Recommended list - In the past, the following teachers have agreed to allow lesson observations. Please call in advance. Give at least a week's notice (this means you must plan ahead) of when

you would like to come. Attempt to carpool (it will be easier on these teachers if at least 2 of you observe at one time...there will be fewer interruptions for them this way).

Bornemisza, Magdi	858-780-9423	mbornemisza@san.rr.com
Calvert, Erica	858-376-7664	erica@airshinemusic.com
Garriott, Erik	619-920-0612	erikgarriott24@gmail.com
Hardy, Angelina	858-449-6477	angelina.pianostudio@gmail.com
Labenske, Karlin	619-807-3230	karlin.labenske@gmail.com
Reed-Darrow, Elyse	619-733-4525	ElyseDarrow@gmail.com

d. Tests on Objective Content:

Midterm exam 75 points

Final exam 75 points

- The Midterm exam will be a test on materials studied, textbook readings, and class discussions.
- The Final exam will consist of a **virtual** notebook you will compile of all materials relating to this course that you have received and have collected throughout the semester.

The Virtual Notebook (a shared Google folder) will contain sections (organized by subfolders) categorizing all materials (examples of categories might include: Method reviews, studio policies, lesson plans, observation reports, technique, theory, teaching response forms, software and app information, repertoire, reference, websites, etc.)

e. Professional Involvement:

Please volunteer to work several hours at a music teacher event. Your involvement at this point in your career will pay dividends in the future. Community involvement is also a goal of the PLNU community. If you are in an approved competition, this may also count, although I would prefer that you do both, experiencing a music teacher event from the teacher's perspective.

- <https://sdsouthcapmt.org/chapter-events/>
- <https://www.sdnc-capmt.org/events>
- www.mtacs.org (Sonata Contest on PLNU campus Nov. 4)

f. Teaching:

The class will decide on one method that all students will use. You will have the opportunity to teach one student at no charge for 8 thirty-minute lessons beginning the week of October 9. You may earn a maximum of 25 points for each lesson you teach. To receive credit for your teaching, you will complete a lesson plan and a self-evaluation form for each lesson. (Lesson plan information is found on pp. 99-115 and 190-200). Each evaluation form (8 in all) will be due each Saturday following your lesson (see Canvas). All teaching should be completed by the final

day of class. The required self-evaluation form is available on Canvas. **Don't teach on Fridays (note that fall break is Thursday and Friday).**

Videotape at least 4 of your lessons including LESSONS 1, 3, 5, 8 (you'll complete the rubric only for lesson 7). You may reserve a tablet from the music department office (also a stand) or at Ryan Library. Share the Google drive link to your video with Dr. Labenske so he can observe your teaching. You may need to exchange videos with class members in order to observe their teaching.

g. Evaluation by Peers

You will be evaluated by your peers in week 5 (25 points) and week 14 (15 points).

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR POLICY

Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the [Academic Behavior Policy](#) in the [University Catalog](#).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course; this type of use will be considered **plagiarism**. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center, [by email](#) or phone at 619-849-2533. Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines approved accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate. PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes. Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to

make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice-free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) has experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the [Title IX Office](#).

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact [Counseling Services](#) or [consult the list of campus pastors](#).

If you (or someone you know) has experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

LOMA WRITING CENTER

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar, and polishing final drafts, and more.

Walk-ins are welcome, but we recommend making an appointment in advance. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- [Appointment Calendar](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Email](#)

LOMABOOKS INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Prior to the start of class, the PLNU Bookstore will also be sharing student instructions in a standalone email on how to access their content.

This course is part of our course material delivery program, [LomaBooks](#). The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your [LomaBooks](#) materials.