

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
Music Department
MUA 156, 256, 356, 456 - Private Piano
Fall 2015

COURSE SYLLABUS

Welcome to piano lessons. I look forward to the opportunity of working together with you to develop your skills as a musician. As we work together, we will certainly choose music, work on musical-technical challenges and aim for a high level of performance. I hope you will find the joy of communicating your own musical ideas and grow as you learn to share your heart, your soul and your intellect with those who hear you play.

1. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Private, applied instruction in piano is a vital part of the development of music majors, as well as an appropriate elective for many non-music majors. Each level of study has defined materials and technical masteries to be achieved. Students are assigned to a level according to their proficiency and mastery of materials listed for given level.
2. **PREREQUISITE:** None for MUA 156 except for music majors who should pass the piano proficiency exam before enrolling in Private Piano. Class Piano is recommended for students who have never studied piano before. MUA 256, 356, and 456 are taken only by students who have been raised to one of these levels by the piano faculty after a piano jury.
3. **INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Victor Labenske
Office: CMC 214
Cell phone (texting is great): 619-602-1690 (up to 10:00 PM)
Office phone number: 619-849-2303
E-mail address: vlabensk@pointloma.edu
Office hours: M 2:30-4, 5-6
T 10-11, 12-12:30
W 10:30-11, 12:30-1:30
R 10-11, 12-12:30
F 10:30-11

I am also free to meet during lunch in the cafeteria
on TRF.
4. **UNITS:** 1-2 (Two units are usually reserved for piano performance majors and upper division music education majors preparing for a recital.).
5. **TEXTBOOK(S):** To be determined by the instructor after the first lesson. You may borrow music from me for the first 2 weeks. You'll need to order your music right away so you have it by the 3rd lesson. There will also be fees for any competitions you enter. **Ordering from the cheapest place on the internet may cause unacceptable delays.**

Music may be purchased from:

Lovley Music 858-277-5754

MR Music Notes 619-283-2001

Pepper Music http://www.pianoatpepper.com/catalog/pap_index.jsp

Sheet Music Plus <http://www.sheetmusicplus.com>

8. OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS: A metronome and possibly manuscript paper.
9. POSITION OF COURSE IN COLLEGE CURRICULUM: All piano performance majors are required to take Private Piano; it is an option for meeting the private lesson requirement for other music majors. Music majors and non-music majors desiring to continue developing their piano skills often take Private Piano as an elective.
10. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
 - Attain mastery of technical exercises and etudes appropriate to student's class level and degree program stipulated in the Music Student Handbook, as demonstrated by successful completion of the technique portion of the jury exam with a grade of "B" or better.
 - Cultivate technical and interpretive skills needed to perform repertoire from contrasting historical periods in accordance with the level and scope expectations (required number of pieces and duration) stipulated in the Music Student Handbook, as demonstrated by successful completion of the repertoire portion of the jury with a grade of "B" or better.
 - Develop performance skills, such as memorization and stage presentation, through the application of practice strategies and creative problem solving, as demonstrated by satisfactory performance participation in piano forum and department recitals; successful completion of the repertoire portion of the jury with a grade of "B" or better.

* Students who are not required to perform a jury exam for the piano faculty will be evaluated solely according to the items in #12 below.

11. METHODS USED IN THE COURSE: Ordinarily lesson assignments will include new, continuing and review repertoire, as well as technique and memorization assignments. Each week, I'll evaluate your progress and we'll discuss areas for improvement. I'll record a weekly grade in consultation with you on the basis of your completion of weekly assignments.
12. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION
 - **Weekly Grade** – The 2 components listed below will be averaged together to create a grade for each lesson after lesson #1.
 - *Practice hours and days*

- Each week at your lesson, you will report the number of hours and the number of days you practiced over the past week
- If you are studying for 1-unit, you are expected to practice a minimum of 6 hours per week, 6 days per week. Upper division students will likely set a higher goal.
- I'll average the hours and days practiced with the goal set for practice hours.
- If you are enrolled for two units of credit, you are expected to practice a minimum of 12 hours per week, 6 days per week.
- If you are at the 356 at 456 levels, studying for 2 units of credit, you are expected to practice 3-4 hours per day. Together, we'll set an individual practice goal for the semester at the first lesson.
- Your recorded practice time should be on assigned literature only.
- Practice rooms are available by checking out a key at the music office.
- **Assignment sheet** – Together, we will create an assignment sheet at each lesson; in consultation with you, I'll assign a grade for your progress on the previous week's assignments.
- **Binder** – I will keep a binder in my office with your assignment sheets. Your job is to take a picture of the assignment sheet at each lesson so that you have an electronic copy to follow throughout the week.
- **Memorization** – Memorization is part of the pianistic tradition and is a challenge for all of us, even those of us who are professional pianists. Learning the skill of performing music by memory prepares you for any required degree recitals.
 - If you are studying for **1 unit**, you will memorize **2 pieces (or 6 min. of music)** during the semester:
 - The **first piece (or first 3 min.)** by week 8.
 - The **second piece (or last 3 min.)** by our last lesson (before finals week).
 - If you are studying for **2 units**, you will memorize **3 pieces (or 10 minutes of music)** during the semester:
 - The **first piece (or first 3 min.)** by week 5.
 - The **second piece (or next 3 min.)** by week 10.
 - The **third piece (or last 4 min.)** by our last lesson (before finals week).
 - If you are at the 356 and 456 level, you will have 1/3 of your jury literature learned by week 5, and 2/3 of your jury literature learned by week 10.
 - You will receive 100% of the earned score for the weekly grade if you choose to meet the memory requirements by the due date. If you choose not to meet the requirements, the grade for that week will be 50% of the weekly grade earned that week. Subsequent weekly grades will be 50% until you have chosen to complete the memorize assignment.
 - If you would like me to, I will complete a grading rubric for the piece after you memorize it, in order to show you the kind of feedback you will receive at the jury. Just ask me to do this.

- ***Piano forum*** – Forum enables you to perform and to hear others perform. It allows you to “try out” pieces, to test memory and to perform a piece repeatedly to gain confidence with memory and stage presence. I encourage you to perform often and to repeat pieces so that you can get comfortable in performing them.
 - We have Forum each Monday from 4-5 (except when there are student recitals)
 - You need to attend the **ENTIRE CLASS**.
 - You must attend 7 piano forums if you are a music major whose primary performance area is piano. Other students must attend 3 forums.
 - If you choose to miss two of the required number of forums, it will count as a missed lesson.
 - If you miss four of the required number of forums, it will count as two missed lessons.
 - If you miss six of the required number of forums, it will count as three missed lessons.
 - Music majors must perform on at least one forum.

- ***Performances*** - Performing takes practice to create confidence.
 - Student Recitals - Each music major must perform on a student recital once per semester in their major performing area. If you choose not to perform on a student recital, it will count as **two** missed lessons. Please choose your performance dates at the first lesson. **See dates on forum schedule.**

 - Performances of Repertoire Pieces – Piano emphasis students need to perform each piece by memory:
 - 3 times before a student recital performance, and
 - 5 times before a jury performance (except for the piece memorized at week 15).
 - Be creative! Possible performances might be at piano forum, for friends or family or at an off-campus event.

 - ***Competition/Community service*** – We are sent to serve and represent God’s kingdom and PLNU in our community. If you choose not to complete this service or competition requirement, it will count as a missed lesson.

 - Competition - Piano performance majors who are sophomores or above **MUST** participate in a competition this semester unless this is your first semester of study in this studio. Other music majors whose primary area in piano may elect to perform in a competition or to complete the community service requirement.
 - Community service – This requirement requires ½ day of community service in a music teacher event this semester unless you compete in a competition. Please plan two weeks in advance. Do not call the organizer the day before the event and expect to be accommodated; this is not professional and does not reflect the values of our PLNU community.

For possibilities, see:

- **CAPMT1.org/events.php**
 - **SanDiegoMTAC.com**
- **Attendance** - Attendance, as is obvious by the grading criteria above, is very important in private piano. According to the *Catalog*, whenever the number of accumulated absences in a class, for any cause, exceeds ten percent of the total number of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration which may result in de-enrollment, pending any resolution of the excessive absences between the faculty member and the student. If more than 20 percent of the total number of class meetings is reported as missed (three weeks or longer in a semester-long course), the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration may initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without advance notice to the student. For full details, see: http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=864#Class_Attendance
 - Based on information above, here is a summary of what counts as absences:
 - 3 tardies = 1 absence
 - missing piano forum
 - missing your community service opportunity or competition
 - missing a required student recital performance
 - Here's grace: You will **not** be penalized for the first absence; this allows for a sick day or personal day (I suggest saving this absence just in case you do get sick).
 - If you are absent twice (two weeks of lessons) or have the equivalent of 2 absences (see forum, volunteer and performance guidelines above), you'll lose one letter grade
 - If you are absent 3 times (3 weeks of lessons or the equivalent), you'll lose 2 letter grades.
 - I don't make up any lessons (except when I'm gone). But, you may change lesson times with someone else on a week you need to be absent.
 - **Jury exam**
 - **JURY DATE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 14.**
 - If you are a music major whose primary performing area is piano, you are required to take a jury at the end of each term according to the requirements in the *Catalog*.
 - Important: Failure to take a required jury will result in course failure.
 - The final grade I assign must be no more than one grade higher or lower than the jury grade.
 - **Grading scale** - The following percentage scale will be used in figuring grades:

93-100% = A	90-92% = A-
87-89% = B+	83-86% = B
80-82% = B-	77-79% = C+
73-76% = C	70-72% = C-
67-69% = D+	63-66% = D
60-62% = D-	0-59% = F

13. **CLASSROOM ATTIRE:** Thank you for trying to help those around you focus on their work by dressing in a way that you believe would be pleasing to Christ.
14. **INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY:** I'll be available during the office hours listed on page 1. Making an appointment when possible will help you ensure that I am available for you. You may arrange other if the listed times are impossible.
15. **FERPA POLICY:** In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See Policy Statements in the undergraduate student catalog.
16. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS.** All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the instructor during the first two weeks of class and provide approved documentation and verification of need. The Academic Support Center is available to students for a variety of tutorial needs.
17. **FORUM/STUDENT RECITAL SCHEDULE**
 - 9/1 Barbecue at Dr. Labenske's home: 828 Temple St. San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 602-1690
 - 9/7 LABOR DAY – no forum
 - 9/14 Forum – Crill Hall
 - 9/21 Studios Meet Separately: Labenske: Parlor Martin: CMC115 or Studio
 - 9/28 Forum – Crill Hall
 - 10/5 Student Recital 1
 - 10/12 Forum – Crill Hall
 - 10/19 Studios Meet Separately: Martin: Parlor Labenske: CMC214 (Studio)
 - 10/26 Forum – Crill Hall
 - 11/2 Student Recital 2
 - 11/9 Crill Hall
 - 11/16 Studios Meet Separately: Labenske: Parlor Martin: CMC or Studio
 - 11/23 Student Recital 3
 - 11/30 Forum – Crill Hall (CMC115)
 - 12/7 Student Recital 4
 - 12/9 Piano Proficiency Exam (music majors only) Wednesday afternoon (sign up for a time)
 - 12/12 Final Studio Class at Dr. Labenske's home (required) Time: _____
18. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**
 - Bernstein, Seymour. *With Your Own Two Hands*. (786.3 B531w)

- Camp, Max. *Developing Piano Performance*. Chapel Hill, NC: Hinshaw Music, Inc., 1981.
(786.3/C186d)
- Gerig, Reginald. *Famous Pianists and Their Technique*. New York: Robert B. Luce, Inc.,
1974. (786.21;G369f)
- Gillespie, John. *Five Centuries of Keyboard Music*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc.,
1965. (786.409/G478f)
- Gordon, Stewart. *Etudes for Piano Teachers*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1995.
(786.21 G665e)
- Gordon, Stewart. *A History of Keyboard Literature*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1995. (786
G665h)
- Green, Barry. *The Inner Game of Music*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1986.
(781.63/G794i)
- Hinson, Maurice. *Guide to the Pianist's Repertoire*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University
Press, 1973. (786.4/H665g3)
- Klickstein, Gerald. *The Musician's Way*. New York: Oxford UP, 2009. Lhevinne, Josef.
Basic Principles in Piano Forte Playing. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1972.
(786.3/2689b)
- Sandor, Gyorgy. *On Piano Playing*. New York: Coleman - Ross Company, Inc., 1961.
(786.3/W594i2)
- Whiteside, Abby. *Indispensables of Piano Playing*. New York: Coleman - Ross Company,
Inc., 1961. (786.3/W594i2)

OTHER RESOURCES (located in Media Services):

- True, Nelita. *Portrait of a Pianist-Teacher*. (VC 0977)
- True, Nelita. *The Studio Lesson*. (VC 0978)
- True, Nelita. *Technique through Listening*. (VC 0979)

Syllabus Summary

- 1. Music: Purchase your own; order immediately.**
- 2. Piano Forum: Attendance is required.**
- 3. Grade based on:**
 - **weekly grade (assignment sheets and practice hours/days).**
 - **memorization schedule.**
 - **jury.**
 - **forum attendance.**

Piano Juries – Revised 1/12/15

I. Technical Requirements

MUA 156

Semester 1: all major scales, 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 60 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 100 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

Semester 2: all major and minor (harmonic and melodic) scales, 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 80 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 120 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

MUA 256

Semester 1: all major key arpeggios (major triads in root position, inversions and their dominant sevenths) 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 60 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 88 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

Semester 2: all major and minor key arpeggios (major and minor triads in root position, inversions, their dominant and fully-diminished sevenths in root position) 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 72 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 104 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

MUA356

Semester 1: select an etude from MTAC Certificate of Merit Advanced Level list (see attached)
Semester 2: No technical requirement

MUA 456

No technical requirement

II. Time and Repertoire Requirements (all repertoire must be memorized)

- ***Music majors meeting degree requirements and piano scholarship students must take juries except in the semester of a degree recital.***
- ***Students who have completed their degree requirements and who are not on scholarship do not have to take a jury. Note: Students must take a jury in order to have MUA 156, 256, 356 or 456 count towards their degree.***
- ***Students who are not required to take 2-units of private piano and do not wish to meet the jury requirements of the 256, 356 or 456 levels may enroll for 1-unit at their assigned level and meet the specified jury requirements and then enroll for a 2nd unit at the 156 level.***

MUA156

Semester 1: 10 minute jury slot for all students; **2 contrasting pieces**

Semester 2:

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 2 contrasting pieces
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 10 minutes of repertoire

MUA256

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 2 contrasting pieces.
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 15 min. of repertoire

MUA356

Semester 1:

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 10 min. of repertoire in addition to the etude.
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 15 min. of repertoire in addition to the etude.mare

Semester 2:

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 10 min. of repertoire
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 15 min. of repertoire

MUA456

- 15 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 15 min. of repertoire
- 20 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 20 min. of repertoire