

Topics in Pedagogy and Literature
Musi 3250.004
Elementary Piano
Fall 2026

Instructor: Vicki Conway

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Office Hours: Monday: 2:30 – 3:30; Tuesday 10:00-10:30; Wednesday: 3:30-4:30; Thursday: 10:00 - 10:30

By appointment: Request an appointment by sending an email with your available times.

Course Overview

This course explores strategies, methods, materials, and business practices for teaching piano from beginning through elementary levels. Careful sequencing of literature from levels 1 – 3 will be studied based on *Piano Literature for Teaching and Performance* by Jane Magrath. Students will also have 6 hours field experience, observing and interviewing independent piano teachers in the local community.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will have knowledge and resources to teach beginning level piano in both private and group settings. They will be familiar with the many beginning piano method series available for various age groups from preschool to adults and they will compile an extensive notebook of teaching materials and business documents relevant to operating a private studio.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Notebook Assignments	20%
Field Experience Observations	10%
Tests	35%
Final Exam/Final Notebook	35%

Required Materials

Haroutounian, Joanne, *Fourth Finger on Bb: Effective Strategies for Teaching Piano*, Kjos, San Diego, 2012

Magrath, Jane, *Piano Literature for Teaching and Performance*, Piano Education Press, New Jersey, 2021

Linn Jennifer, ed., *Journey Through the Classics Complete*, Hal Leonard, 2012

Special Course Notes/Attendance

1. Attendance is required for all scheduled classes and teacher observations. Each unexcused absence will lower the final average by 1 point each. Students must document reasons for excused absences.
2. Students will receive grades and feedback for each notebook assignment and must make immediate corrections to turn in with the next assignment for proper sequencing of notebook materials.
3. AI is not allowed in this course.

Grading Scale:

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: Below 60

Late Work and Make-Up Exams

Late assignments will receive a letter grade deduction unless absences are excused. Make-Up exams are only given for excused absences.

Course Calendar and Due Dates

Week 1	Course overview; Business Practices and Technology (Haroutounian, Ch. 1-4)
Week 2	Keyboard Geography; Technique
Week 3	Teaching Reading Skills: Pitch, Intervals, Rhythm;
Week 4	Learning Styles/Personality Types (Haroutounian Ch. 11); Developmental Skills
Weeks 5-7	Survey of Method Series (Haroutonian Ch. 5)
Week 8	Method Series Presentations
Weeks 9-10	Level One (Linn, Magrath)
Weeks 11-12	Level Two (Linn, Magrath)
Weeks 13-14	Level Three (Linn, Magrath)
Week 15	Final Exam and Notebook Review

Census Date: September 8

Withdrawal Date: October 30

Artificial Intelligence

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research.

You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is permitted, but any use for written work must be acknowledged and properly documented.

Student Resources: See links in Canvas Syllabus Module