

## SYLLABUS

### MUS 161: Piano Literature

Prepared by Dr. Nancy Zipay DeSalvo

Days/Time: MWF 3:10 – 4:10 PM

Patterson Hall

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**Required text:** *A History of Keyboard Literature: Music for the Piano and its Forerunners* by Steward Gordon. Schirmer publication, 1996.

**Course description:** A chronological in-depth survey of music for the piano and harpsichord, from the Renaissance through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Emphasis is placed on principal composers and important compositions. This is a time intensive course; however, one of the most enjoyable ones you may enroll in.

**Course outcomes:** Students gain comprehensive knowledge of the literature written for the solo piano. In addition, students learn about the evolution of the piano and its connection to the style and type of literature written for it. Since listening to piano music is a major portion of the course, students develop not only the ability to recognize individual pieces but also to identify historical styles and composers.

**Assessment:** Weekly short quizzes, mid-term and final exams, individual presentations, and class participation are the assessment tools.

**Assignments:** Weekly assignments combine reading and listening. An outline of daily and weekly assignments follows. Specific listening assignments depend on availability of recordings and CD's. **Weekly reading and listening assignments are only a guide and are subject to change.** Graded exams and short quizzes are built into the daily assignments. Expect one quiz on the reading and listening assignments every third class day.

**Exams and grading:** Weekly quizzes counts 25% of your final grade, the mid-term exam counts 25% of your final grade, the final exam counts for 25% of your final grade, and the individual presentation counts for 25% of your final grade. In class participation is expected but not part of your grade. Your participation will be evaluated when your grade is border-line.

Assigned grades and the numerical equivalents:

|        |    |          |         |
|--------|----|----------|---------|
| 100-93 | A  | 76-73    | C       |
| 92-90  | A- | 72-70    | C-      |
| 89-87  | B+ | 69-67    | D+      |
| 86-83  | B  | 66-63    | D       |
| 82-80  | B- | 62-60    | D-      |
| 79-77  | C+ | Below 60 | Failing |

**Additional information:** Attendance is expected. Absolutely no cell phone use in class. No food, please.

Westminster College's policy on academic integrity is clear.

*Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of the expected code of behavior. It can take several forms, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts or experimental results, unauthorized use of or intentional intrusion into another's computer files and/or programs, intentional damage to a computer system, and unauthorized use of library materials and privileges.*

Violations of this policy are severe. In this class, cheating on homework, tests, or any misrepresentation covered in the above paragraph will result in a failure of the course.

***Students with Disabilities-***Westminster College is committed to providing services and support for students with physical, psychological, visual, hearing or learning disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students who seek accommodations for diagnosed disabilities should contact the director of the Office of Disability Resources for further information.



## Assignment Guidelines

### **Week One:** Chapters 1-3

1. Stringed Keyboard Instruments
2. Keyboard Music to the End of the Renaissance
3. Baroque Keyboard Music in Italy, France, England, and Germany

### **Week Two:** Chapter 4

George Frideric Handel and Johann Sebastian Bach

### **Week Three:** Chapter 5

The *Galant* Style (2 days)

Begin Chapter 6

### **Week Four:** Chapter 6

Franz Joseph Haydn (2 days)

Begin Chapter 7

### **Week Five:** Chapter 7

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

### **Week Six:** Chapter 8

Ludwig Van Beethoven

### **Week Seven:** Chapters 9 and 10

9. The Turn of the Nineteenth Century

10. Franz Peter Schubert

### **Week Eight:** Chapter 11

Felix Mendelssohn

### **Week Nine:** Chapter 12

Robert Schumann

### **Week Ten:** Chapter 13

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin

### **Week Eleven:** Chapter 14

Franz Liszt

### **Week Twelve:** Chapter 15

Johannes Brahms

**Week Thirteen:** Chapters 16-17

- 16. Other composers of the Nineteenth Century
- 17. Claude Debussy

**Week Fourteen:** Chapters 18-23

We will only hit the highlights of the literature.