



MUSC 300: Instrument Performance: Piano
Course Syllabus
Spring 2022

Instructor: Selected Instructors at La Banda degli Unisoni Music School

Credits: 2

Type of Course: Music performance

Prerequisites: Students are assigned exercises and tasks of varying difficulty based on a progressive skills evaluation before the beginning of and during the semester.

Class Meetings: TBA

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course aims to develop students' knowledge and piano technique based on a series of Italian musical piano compositions, including didactic works by Ettore Pozzoli. Students will focus on the interpretation of many different styles of Italian composers, including composers from the Baroque era such as Domenico Scarlatti, from Classical era, such as Domenico Cimarosa, Muzio Clementi, from the Romantic era such as Antonio Diabelli, Vincenzo Bellini, and from the Modern era such as Alfredo Casella, Ottorino Respighi. In this way, students will have the occasion to learn about many Italian piano works, focusing on the differences of style and characteristics among them.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- know the principles of the Italian piano technique;
- practice important Italian compositions for the piano and harpsichord;
- adopt various musical styles, shapes, and rhythms; and
- play piano duets.

Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the instructor.

Assessment

Participation & Homework	35%
Mid-Term Exam	30%
Final Recital	35%

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	
B	83% - 86%	Superior
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	
C	73% - 76%	Satisfactory

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	
D	63% - 66%	Low Pass
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Course Requirements

Participation & Homework (35%)

Students are required to participate actively in class and to demonstrate a consistent effort to develop their performance skills. Being on time to each appointment, adopting respectful behavior, and having a positive attitude towards the instructor are essential.

Students will be assigned homework regularly. They should prepare all assigned materials for each lesson with a demonstrated improvement from the previous lesson. Students should allow themselves adequate time between their previous engagement and a lesson to warm up and concentrate on the music that they will be performing at the lesson.

Mid-Term Exam (30%)

Students will perform a selection of music assignments in front of a commission of instructors based on the materials presented during the first half of the semester.

Final Recital (35%)

The final recital will be a public event, held in front of an audience and a commission of instructors. Students will play from a selection of music assignments based on various materials presented throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy

Absences for Covid-related circumstances: in order to keep the entire Umbra community healthy and to comply with local laws, you may not enter the Umbra premises if you have a temperature of 37.5 °C (99.5 °F) or higher. For all students who display any relevant symptoms, the procedure will be the following:

1. avoid going to class;
2. immediately notify the Student Services staff;
3. be prepared to get tested for COVID at a local pharmacy within the day.

The following additional conditions apply:

- Students may attend classes remotely and without academic penalty via Zoom or Skype *but only* if they are waiting for the test to be scheduled or performed.
- Students with a positive test result (or who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive) must follow all applicable quarantine or isolation requirements and may attend classes remotely, *without academic penalty*.
- Students with a negative test result are allowed to attend class in person.

It is Institute policy that students with symptoms be tested. Any student refusing testing will not be admitted to the Institute under any circumstances and any absences will not be considered eligible for an extra absence for any classes missed. In other words, refusing a test and staying in one's apartment is considered an unexcused absence.

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. Students are allowed one "free" absence, which does not need to be justified. However, it is considered common courtesy to inform the instructor of your absence when possible. It is the students' responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Academic Director but only if a medical certification is provided.

Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students' grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off before the beginning of each class.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Piano technique and choice of repertoire

Week 2

Piano studies and modern repertoire

Week 3

Piano technique and classical and modern repertoire

Week 4

Piano studies and modern repertoire

Week 5

Piano studies and modern repertoire

Week 6

Classic and modern repertoire

SEMESTER BREAK

Week 7

Piano duet

Week 8

Piano studies

Week 9

Piano studies

Week 10

Practice session

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

Appointments will be announced later in the term.