Graduate Piano Chamber Music and Ensemble  
MUN5465L

Instructor: Dr. Yun-Ling Hsu-Casimir  
Classroom: Rehearsal Hall  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Graduate piano chamber music and ensemble is a study of the collaborative piano, emphasis on chamber collaborating skill and its repertoire for graduate students. It is in collaboration with a small music group setting of two or more musicians, for their instruments in piano, strings, brass, woodwinds or voice. Students will receive a weekly chamber ensemble coaching and practice weekly with their partners. At the end of the semester, all students will perform their works in final concert(s) to live audiences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:  
1. Becoming familiar with and performing chamber/ensemble music repertoire;  
2. Master the technical and musical aspects of the collaborative work.

SUGGESTED BOOKS:  
1. Accompanying Basics / by Joyce Grill;  
2. The Art of Accompanying and Coaching / by Kurt Adler;  

SUGGESTED SIGHT-READING MATERIALS FOR PIANISTS:  
1. Hymn Tunes for the Reluctant Organist arranged by Janette Cooper/ Oxford University Press  
3. Mikrokosmos Book - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (easy to difficult) by Bela Bartok  
4. 371 Four Part Chorals for Organ or Piano, Book 1 & 2 (moderate to difficult) by J. S. Bach  
5. Hymnal  
6. Choral Music  
7. Score Reading  
8. See more website links in “Free Resources” section at the end of this syllabus.
SUGGESTED WEBSITES:

DAILY PRACTICE REQUIREMENT:
A minimum of 2 hours of consistent daily practice (including sight-reading practice) is required. Regular, daily practice is more important than practicing long periods of time only a couple of times per week. Good practice is….

- playing very slowly
- playing hands separately
- repeating difficult spots over and over until they are correct
- not always starting at the beginning of the music

Good practice always produces good results, with a little bit of progress day-by-day.

“Amateurs practice until they get it right; professionals practice until they can’t get it wrong.”

“Daily Diligence in the practice room leads to correctness, and correctness breeds consistency breeds confidence.”

CRITERIA FOR GRADING:
- Attendance (weekly coaching, and UCF Fall of 2016 Piano Events) 40%
- Performance of Ensemble Pieces (individual student’s progress will be graded, also grade on weekly preparation, and overall consistency and rate of progress): 30%
- Final Performance (all students will perform their works in final concert(s) to live audiences): 30%

CHAMBER MUSIC REPERTOIRE:
Please consult with your applied instructor. The difficulty level and the amount of the work are depending upon the student’s level and will be approved by your instructor. Each selected piece should not last more than 25 minutes. Each student is required to rehearse together with assigned partner(s) per week.

SPRING OF 2017 FINAL PERFORMANCE:
April 8, Saturday at 8:00-9:45PM “Piano Studio and Ensemble Concert” in the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Orlando. (Dress rehearsal: Wednesday, April 5 @ 6:00 to 10:00pm in Dr. Phillips; Pre-concert/Sound-check: Saturday, the 8th @ 5:00 to 7:30pm in Dr. Phillips)
All piano studio and ensemble students will perform ensemble music in the “Piano Studio and Ensemble Concert” to live audiences in the Dr. Phillips Center. Dress rehearsal is
Wednesday, April 5 @ 6:00 to 10:00pm in Dr. Phillips, and pre-concert sound-check starts @ 5:00 to 7:30pm.

SPRING of 2017 UCF PIANO EVENTS TO ATTEND:
1. **January 17, Tuesday at 8:00PM in RH** – Frank Kimbrough, Jazz Piano Recital
2. **January 18, Wednesday at 11:30AM in RH** – Frank Kimbrough, Jazz Piano Masterclass
3. **January 27, Friday at 12:30PM in either RH or M120** – André Laplante Piano Masterclass
4. **January 28, Saturday at 7:00PM in VAB Auditorium** – the Third Annual “UCF Piano Day - André Laplante Piano Recital”
5. **January 29, Sunday at 11:30AM-2:00PM in RH** – “UCF Piano Day - André Laplante Piano Masterclass”
6. **February 23, Thursday at 8:00PM in RH** – Faculty Recital: Keith Koons, Si-Yan Li and Yun-Ling Hsu
7. **April 8, Saturday at 8:00PM in Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts** – “Piano Studio and Ensemble Concert”
8. **April 29, Saturday at 8:00PM in RH** – Collide Contemporary Music Series: **Faculty Chamber Recital** (Dr. Hsu performs with Dr. Garcia, Dr. Koons for a premier performance of a new trio piece for flute, clarinet & piano by Pierre Jalbert)

Note –
A is Superior (100.00-90.00=A)
B is Excellent (89.99-80.00=B)
C is Average (79.99-70.00=C)
D is Poor (69.99-60.00=D)
Less than a D is unacceptable for music majors.

ATTENDANCE:
Prompt consistent attendance is required. ONE excused absence is allowed without penalty. Any additional unexcused absences must be accompanied by medical documentation, by prearrangement, or will result in the lowering of the student’s final grade by one-half letter grade. **Tardiness is unacceptable.** The first tardiness infraction will result in a warning. Each additional tardiness infraction will result in the lowering of the student’s final grade by one-half letter grade.

No other excuses of any kind, including work, car problems, childcare issues, etc., will be accepted. If your work or other personal issues do not allow you to attend class at the scheduled times, you should consider withdrawal from the course.

MAKE-UP EXAM/ PERFORMANCE:
Students are required to be present for all exams/ performances. When a student must miss an exam/ performance due to emergencies or illness, I request at least 24-hour
advance notice. Make-up exam/performance will be allowed only in the following cases, all of which require documentation:
1. Sustained illness requiring treatment by a physician. (Produce a note from the attending physician)
2. Death in the immediate family within the week prior to the exam. (Copy of the obituary required)
3. Officially sanctioned UCF activities in which you are a regular team or group member. (Produce a note from the sponsor or coach)
All make-up exams/performances must be scheduled within a week of the absence, and will be administered at the convenience of the instructor.

RECORDING ACADEMIC ACTIVITY – Very Important!!
All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, the instructor will take an attendance in Webcourses@UCF (Canvas) during the first week of class after you add the course and you may receive a message about it from the instructor. If this message requires a reply from the students, you must complete it no later than Friday, January 13. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A DELAY IN THE DISBURSEMENT OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID.

FREE RESOURCES:

Metronome:
http://webmetronome.com/

Free Public Domain Music Download:
http://imslp.org/

Sight-reading:
10 Ways of improving your sight reading skills:
http://www.musictheory.net/
http://www.emusictheory.com/ - click “Free Resources”
http://www.sightreadingpractice.com/
http://www.practicesightreading.com/
http://gmajormusictheory.org/Freebies/freebies.html - This website has some terrific short arrangements for sight-reading practice

*Instructor reserves the right to alter syllabus, elements or topic of the course based upon the needs of the class.