

University of North Texas
College of Music

Elementary Piano Pedagogy
MUAG 4160-5160
COM 320
(Subject to changes)

Instructor Information:

Dr. Oscar Macchioni

Office: 109

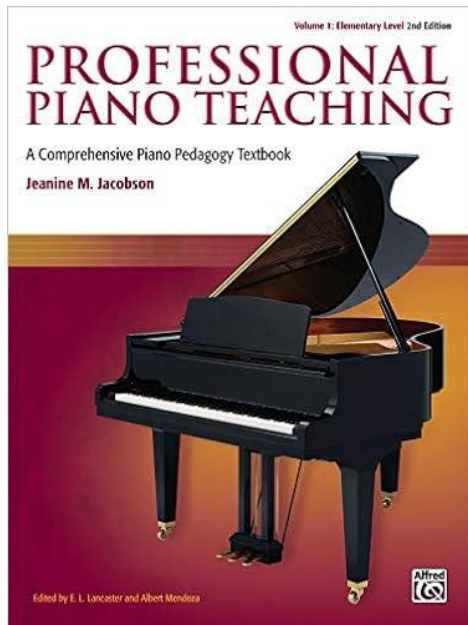
Email: oscar.macchioni@unt.edu

Tel: 915.274.2660

Dr. Macchioni's bio: www.oscarmacchioni.net

Office Hours: TBD

Class meeting: TuTh 12:30-1:50



Textbooks required

- ***Professional Piano Teaching Vol 1, Elementary Level, 2nd Edition* by Jeanine M. Jacobson**
- Various piano methods. I'll provide sampler packages generously donated by some publishers, including collections of the following beginner methods: *Piano Adventures*, *Hal Leonard*, *Succeeding with the Masters*, *Harris Piano Classics*, and various Alfred's books.

On reserve in the Library

- *Questions and Answers: Practical Advice for Piano Teachers* by Frances Clark
- *Creative Piano Teaching*, Third Edition, by Lyke, Enoch and Haydon.
- *Etudes for Piano Teachers Reflections on the Teacher's Art*, by Stewart Gordon.
- *Guide to the Pianist's Repertoire* by Maurice Hinson.
- *How to Teach Piano Successfully*, Third Editions, by James Bastien.
- *Practical Piano Pedagogy* by Martha Baker-Jordan.
- *The Well-Tempered Keyboard Teacher*, Second Edition, by Uszler, Gordon, and McBride Smith.

Course Description

This course is the first of a two-semester track. This first semester will focus on learning and reviewing piano methods for beginner students, introduction to learning techniques, methods, repertoire, use of technology, the business of teaching piano, observation, and practice teaching for beginners. This course is also available for graduate credit. **Graduate students** enrolled in this course will be required to do periodic presentations and demonstrations to the class.

Course Goals

To provide the students with knowledge of keyboard pedagogy, methods, and learning theories. Students will be exposed to traditional and new approaches to teaching piano privately, as well as the latest technology in music teaching. Surveys of various teaching materials will be examined, emphasizing leveling and analyzing musical and technical elements. There will be visits to local piano teacher studios to observe teaching situations and to talk about the business of teaching privately. Practice of teaching will follow. Develop a professional portfolio.

Attendance

- Attendance is required for all class meetings and will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting.
- Absences: you are allowed to have two unexcused absences during the semester. Your grade will be dropped by 3% for every unexcused absence beyond the two allowed.
- Each tardy will be considered ½ absence.
- Excused absences should be notified to the instructor in advance, if possible, followed by a note from the Dean of the College or a doctor.
- Attendance is required for all examinations. No make-up will be given unless the instructor is notified in advance or provided with a note from the Dean of the college or a doctor.

Grades

Grades will be based on attendance, required readings, assignments, presentations, and examinations, calculated as follows:

Assignments/Presentations: 45%

Observations and Teaching: 15%

Tests (2): 30 %, (15% each)

Final Portfolio: 10%

Points: 100 - 90 %=A; 89.9 - 80 %=B; 79.9 - 70 %=C; 69.9 - 60 %=D; 59.9 - 50%= F

Late submission grade will be lowered as follows:

1st late submission by 15%.

2nd late submission by 25%.

3rd late submission and beyond 30%.

Assignments

Students must read and write a 500-700-word summary for each chapter. Students will be assigned specific parts of a chapter and required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation and present to the class.

GenAI

Unless a professor or instructor gives explicit "authorization," AI cannot be used to complete assignments, projects, or papers. Doing so will result in a "cheating" violation.

Observations

You are required to observe four complete private lessons at the elementary level. I encourage you to observe at least two different teachers. I will provide a list of local piano teachers you can observe.

Teaching Videos

You are required to have at least two private students (student A&B). **Student A** should remain the same throughout the teaching period. I suggest that this Student is the most challenging one you have. This will allow me to see your teaching development over an extended period. **Student/s B** can be different students throughout the teaching period. This will allow me to see your approach to different students' levels and repertoire. Teaching videos will be reviewed and discussed among peers in class. These teaching practices will continue next semester throughout Intermediate Piano Pedagogy.

MTNA Collegiate Chapter

As a junior professional, belonging to professional associations is crucial for developing your career. Membership to Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA) offers several services, including career opportunities, professional development, networking with other students and chapters, conference presentations, scholarships, music magazine subscriptions, etc. **UNT has a chapter; you are required to be part of it and participate.** Membership costs only \$19 per year. Please contact the President: [MTNA/TMTA UNT Collegiate Student Chapter | University of North Texas](#)

Course Schedule (subject to changes) Updated 9/11/2025

Week	Schedule	Assignments (see CANVAS) Projects for New Teachers (PNT) Projects for Experienced Teachers (PET)
Week 1 TU August 19	Class introduction.	
TH 21	Discussion	Reading <i>Silent Night, Horrible Night</i> by Richard Chronister

Week 2 TU August 26	Jacobson Chapter 1 The Art of Professional Piano Teaching. Presentations	Assignment #1 Jacobson Chapter 1. Complete pg. 16 PNT: #2, 3
TH 28	Presentations Discussion Assignment pg 16	
Week 3 TU September 2	Jacobson Chapter 2 Principles of Learning. Presentations	Assignment #2 Jacobson Chapter 2, Complete pg. 33 PNT #1, 2, AND pg 34 PET #3
TH 4	Assignment	
Week 4 TU September 9	Jacobson Chapter 3 Beginning Methods Review In class	Assignment #3A and 3B Jacobson Chapter 3, pg. 58 PNT #1. Use the given template
TH 11	Beginning Methods Review In class	
Week 5 TU September 16	Beginning Methods Review In class	
TH 18	Jacobson Chapter 4 Teaching Beginners and Elementary Students' Presentations	Assignment #4 Jacobson pg. 117 PNT #1 AND PEP #3
Week 6 TU September 23	Guest Penelope Roskell (UK)	TEST 1 Research. Take-home research Test. DUE October 3, noon. F. Clark Chapters III and IV
TH 25	Peer Teaching 117 PNT #1	
Week 7 TU September 30	Dr. Macchioni is out of town EPTA Conference Slovenia	Start Teaching Observations 1 and 2 due 10/16
TH October 2	Dr. Macchioni is out of town EPTA Conference Slovenia	
Week 8 TU October 7	Jacobson Chapter 5 Teaching Rhythms and Reading Presentations	Test 1 Due by noon Assignment #5 See Canvas
Th 9	Show and Tell pg. 141	
Week 9 TU October 14	Jacobson Chapter 6 Teaching Technique and Musical Sound Development Presentations	Assignment #6 See Canvas
TH 16	Presentations	
Week 10 TU October 21	Jacobson Chapter 7 Elementary Performance and Study Repertoire Presentations	Assignment #7 See Canvas
TH 23	Presentations	

Week 11 TU October 28	Chapter 7 cont.	Record Teaching Video 1
TH October 30	Elementary Piano Duets (SR)	TEST 2 (take-home)
Week 12 TU November 4	Video 1 peer review	Record Teaching Video 2
TH 6	Video 1 peer review, continues	
Week 13 TU November 11	Video 2 peer review	Record Teaching Video 3
TH 13	Video 2 peer review, continues	In class Teaching Observation #3
WEEK 14 November 18	Video 3 peer review	Record Teaching Video 4
	Video 3 peer review, continues	In class Teaching Observation #4
Week 15 TU November 25	Thanksgiving, No Class	
TH 27	Thanksgiving, No Class	
Week 16 TU December 2	Video 4 peer review (all)	
TH 4	Teaching with Technology Show and Tell	
FINAL	Dec 11 10:30-12:30 Fall Final Exam Schedule University of North Texas	FINAL DUE Tuesday 12/9

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Diversity and Belonging

Link: [Belonging & Engagement | University of North Texas](#)

Health and Safety Information

at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar, Fall 2023

See: [Fall 2023 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2023

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](#)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

STUDENT RESOURCES

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

FOOD PANTRY

LINK: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry>

WRITING CENTER

Learning to write and writing to learn.

LINK: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu>

CARE TEAM

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>