School of Music and Dance
Musc 146A Subtopic Piano Matters, Fall 2015

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Gwendolyn Mok
Office Location: Music 112
Telephone: (408) 924-4637
Email: (Gwendolyn.mok@sjsu.edu)
Office Hours: TBA [See University Policy S12-1 for guidelines]
Class Days/Time: (T/TR 1:30-2:20 pm)
Classroom: (Room 272)
Prerequisites: Must be enrolled in the School of Music
Can also register through Open University

GE/SJSU Studies Category:

Course Fees: $30 Music Use Fee

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be
found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstn
lastname. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other
communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn any updates.

Course Description

This course is for all pianists taking applied lessons and will be conducted as a seminar
with an emphasis on discussion of a wide variety of topics all relating to piano matters.
We will explore these topics using news articles, CDs, online lectures, will visit a
recording studio in SF and will have a few guest speakers.
GELO 1- What can we learn from historic recordings? A field trip to Richard Wahlberg’s studio in SF to hear legendary pianists on historic recordings played on a restored vintage record player. Listen to Alfred Cortot, Wanda Landowska, Claude Debussy, Egon Petri and other great pianists of the past.

GELO 2- How to develop and find your unique sound. A comparison of pianists and discussion on ‘Tone Production’ of each artist. Listening to and examining how these great artists create their identifiable sound.

GELO 2- Career possibilities post SJSU, a visit by former students who are now working in the field. I will invite graduates from the Piano Performance Major, Music Education and composition areas to come back and talk about their career paths and how they are succeeding in making a living in their areas.

GELO 4- Stage presence. What is this and what role does charisma play in the success of a performance? We will look at DVDs of Rubenstein, Horowitz, Argerich and Lang Lang and discuss what each of them bring to the presentation of the music.

GELO 5- How are pianos constructed? What is a career like as a piano technician? Our own in house technician Ernie Martinez will come and de-construct the piano action in front of you and show you what he does. You may be inspired to pursue this very interesting and potentially lucrative career.

GELO 6- What defines the ideal pianist to you? A look and comparison of virtuosos past and present. Reading some recent articles in the NY Times, which examined this very question, we will examine through DVDs, concerts and recordings how the definition of virtuosos has changed over the years. Standards which defined virtuoso playing may no longer be the same now.

GELO 7- Discussion and Analysis of what makes a successful career as a performing artist. Readings from the Saavy Musician. A look at different case studies and how these might apply to your choices for your own career aspirations.

GELO 8- How to establish your teaching studio and reputation. A closer look at business approaches to marketing yourself and identifying your strengths.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
CLO 1- Identify, organize and discuss in depth a myriad topics concerning ‘Piano Matters’ (exam, paper).

CLO 2- Effectively prepare and establish a direction for career options in setting up a teaching studio and career path (paper).
CLO 3- Assess and discuss in depth various pianists from the point of view of virtuosity, stage presence, charisma and tone production (paper).
CLO 4- Cite and discuss various important pianists from the past and apply some of their interpretive values to your own playing and interpretive style (practicum).

Required Texts/Readings

A variety of articles will be assigned throughout the seminar.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

There will be (2) written assignments for this course and a final group project.

Grading Policy

Each paper outlined above is worth 25% of the final grade. Group project 50% of the grade.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance Policy: Excused absences are conflicts outside the control of the student (i.e., Illness, death in the family). It is imperative you call to notify me of the reason. Unexcused absences are conflicts within the control of the student (i.e., had another performance/rehearsal, had to write a paper).

Tardiness: It is important for you to be on time in deference to your classmates and to the instructor.
University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise
specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University’s continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections (Optional)

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics.
A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center (Optional)**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

**SJSU Counseling Services (Optional)**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

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