

Gustavus Adolphus College  
Department of Music  
Spring 2007

**MUS 142**  
**Creative Piano Teaching: Piano Pedagogy for New Teachers**  
**M/W 1:30 – 2:20**

**SYLLABUS**

*This is a required course for student-teachers at the Piano Laboratory School, Gustavus Music Department.*

Dr. Yumiko Oshima-Ryan  
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Office Hours: M.W. 1:00–1:30, 2:30–3:00

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Guest Speaker: Rebekah Richards  
Director of the Piano Laboratory School

***Course Goals***

The goal of this course is to foster fundamental teaching skills in new piano teachers through study of various teaching techniques and critical thinking on current issues in piano education. The course will encourage the development of a personal and creative approach to teaching. Throughout the course, students will face questions like: Why do I want to teach? Would I enjoy working with children or adults? What personality traits are required for effective teaching? Students will draw conclusions in the final paper “My Teaching Philosophy”.

***Course Description***

1. Students will survey piano method books, theory books, and learn the aspects of independent teaching including business procedures, and piano studio policies.
2. The class will have a field trip to visit a piano studio of Dr. Paul Wirth, one of the most successful independent piano teachers in the Midwest. Students will observe effective piano teaching, write observation reports, and participate in discussions with peers about their reports.
3. Students will have peer review sessions of their own video-taped teaching. This exercise will include a self evaluation report made by studying the video-taped lesson.
4. Students will give an oral presentation on a topic of their choice from current issues in piano education. The purpose of this presentation is to develop critical thinking on educational issues and to open up valuable discussion with student peers.

**Required Texts**

Available at **Book Mark**

- Bastien, James, *How to Teach Piano Successfully* (third edition), Neil A. Kjos Music Company, California, 1988.
- Clark, Frances, Louise Goss, Sam Holland, *The Music Tree – Time to Begin*, Warner Bros. Publications, 2000.

**Reserved Book**

- Yurko, Michiko, *Music Mind Games*, Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. 1992.

**Reserved equipment**

- Video cameras are reserved at Music Library (3 pm – 11 pm M-F)
- One video camera is available for the class at #305

**Reserved Video Tapes**

- *Conversation with Frances Clark – Her Life and Teachings*
- *Nelita Ture at Eastman – Technique Through Listening*
- *Memorization in Piano Performance* by Stewart Gordon
- *What Every Pianist Needs to Know About the Body* by Thomas Mark

**Class Participation and Attendance Policy**

Come to class prepared to discuss reading assignments and work projects, such as teaching observation reports. Attendance will be required at all class sessions. If you are unable to attend, please notify me in advance. **Excessive absences (beyond two class meetings) will result in a lower course grade.**

**Assignments, Projects, and Evaluation**

Class participation and attendance	20%
Oral Presentation	20 %
Paper with Bibliography (10%)	
Presentation (10%)	
Observation Report (5)	25%
Final Paper	10%
Group project	5%
Studio Policy	5%
Lesson Plan (2)	5%
Teaching Report (2)	10%

**\* Late Assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor with some loss of points.**

**Academic Honesty**

Be familiar with the college’s expectations concerning **academic honesty**, printed in the current academic catalog. It is expected that you will turn in your own written work.

