

Syllabus for
APM 131, 231, 331, 431—Applied Music (Organ)
Dr. Shawn Gingrich, instructor
Fall 2011

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Private organ instruction to introduce or continue a course of study on playing the organ.

Prerequisite: Keyboard proficiency of at least the level of the Two-part Inventions by Johann Sebastian Bach.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to help the student develop organ playing skills from beginning through advanced levels. Varied repertoire including hymn-based compositions will be utilized. In addition, accompaniments from standard choral repertoire, solo voice repertoire and congregational hymns will be included as appropriate.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of completing this course successfully, the student will demonstrate the following:

- A. Basic knowledge of the history and construction of the organ.
- B. Understanding of the basic nomenclature of stop names including the families of sounds and normal combinations for registering repertoire.
- C. Posture and hands/feet position at the organ as necessary for good organ technique.
- D. Accurate rhythms, notes, tempi, dynamics, etc.
- E. Careful attention to voice leading.
- F. Proper Manual and Pedal technique including proper fingering and pedaling.
- G. Performance practice in ornamentation.
- H. Correct understanding and performance of various musical styles.
- I. Skillful accompanying and service playing.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND SHOES

Organ Technique Modern and Early by George Ritchie and George Stauffer will be required of all beginning students. If a student owns a formerly used method book, the organ instructor will approve its use, if appropriate. Organ performance shoes available from various companies are required. The Organmaster Company is recommended <http://www.organmastershoes.com>

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. Lessons will be arranged at the convenience of student and instructor.
- B. Cancelled or missed lessons will not be made-up without prior communication and instructor approval.
- C. Evaluation and Expectations
 - 1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Each student will be critiqued and graded at each lesson.
For a grade of A:
 - (1) Assignments must be prepared through careful practice.
 - (2) All preparation must be performed with outstanding ability.
 - (3) Progress must be clearly shown.
 - (4) Student must be eager to learn and excel.
 - 2. Other Information
 - a. Practice
 - (1) Practice is mandatory and is vital to keyboard improvement.
 - (2) Each person is responsible for learning his or her music and is expected to spend all the time necessary in practice to accomplish the goals and requirements set forth in the private lesson.
 - b. Professional memberships, workshops, master classes, concerts
 - 1) Student membership in the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is recommended (visit www.Harrisburgago.com for more details on membership). Also, subscriptions to professional periodicals such as *Clavier*, *Diapason*, and *Keyboard Companion*, provide insight and musical contacts for future employment and graduate study.
 - 2) Each student is encouraged to attend area concerts featuring artists of local, national or international reputation, such as AGO recitals, church-sponsored concerts, local church organists' recitals, and professional master classes for organists.

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