

# **MUS 1577/1578 Harpsichord/Performance Practice Syllabus**

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Studio B 142

## **Course Description**

MUS 1577 and 16578 will introduce students to the harpsichord, baroque keyboard repertoire and basic principles of historical performance through private lessons. The class may also include an introduction to realizing figured bass and ensemble continuo playing. Specific goals will be tailored to the abilities and interests of each student, but will cover a French, Italian and German repertoire from 1600-1750. All goals, weekly grades and requirements will be shared with the student in an online document.

## **Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to inspire interest in harpsichord playing, to build a basic harpsichord technique and touch, and to foster an understanding of the principles and history of baroque keyboard music.

## **Expected Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to explain and demonstrate differences between harpsichord and piano technique. They will understand the importance of historical principles and research in performing music written in the Baroque era. They will have explored and performed music in different national styles and will be able to identify salient characteristics of those styles.

## **Attendance**

Lessons per semester = 13

Faculty are not obligated to schedule make-up lessons for those missed due to student absences, either excused or unexcused, (including illness, vacation, etc.). Excused absences can include religious holidays, poor health, (with a note from the health center or other medical professional), family emergency, or other events determined in advance by the faculty. There will be no negative impact on a student's grade for excused absences. In the event of instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled.

If a student registers after the first (or second) scheduled lesson, that lesson (or lessons) will not be taught, nor count against the student's grade or attendance. An instructor may substitute one instructor-led event for a lesson, such as a studio recital or workshop.

Unexcused absences will effect a semester grade in the following manner:

- One unexcused absence –at the discretion of the instructor.
- Two unexcused absences – the grade will be lowered by one full grade
- Each subsequent absence – lowers the grade one incremental step

## University Policy on Religious Holidays:

Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;  
Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;  
Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities.

## Grading

Students will be graded on each lesson, following a discussion with the student of weekly practice time on the harpsichord, quality of performance in the lesson, and any research or assignments involved with the repertoire for the week. Especially outstanding progress in any given week can improve a grade from previous week. The final grade will be an average of the weekly grades, with the student given opportunities to improve any weekly grade through extra work of his/her choice.

## Academic Integrity

I support the GW Code of Academic Integrity: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

## Support for Students Outside of the Classroom

### DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For more info, see: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

### UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include crisis and emergency mental health consultations, confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. For more info, see: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>

## Security

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

## Resources and Instruments

Please contact the music department staff to obtain a key to my studio, and with other general questions.

Our harpsichord is a single manual Flemish instrument, which is normally kept at A 415 pitch. If a string or plectra breaks, or you notice anything else wrong with the instrument, please let me know as soon as possible.

Washington DC has a wealth of early music concerts and events. I'll alert you to as many as possible, and offer you complementary tickets to my own performances.