

# Sul Ross State University

## SYLLABUS

**MUS 1211 010: Individual Instruction, Organ**

**Fall, 2024**

**Dr. Karrin Ford, DMA, PhD**

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**Office hours: MWF 11-12; TT 1-2; or by appointment**

### **Course Description:**

This course provides private instruction in organ to students with prior keyboard study. Skills to be addressed include the continued development of technical facility, sight-reading, melodic harmonization, improvisation, transposition, and diverse accompaniment styles.

### **Required Texts:**

Gleason, Harold. *Method of Organ Playing*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Prentice Hall, 1995.

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

1. The student will make significant progress in acquiring technical organ skills, including accurate note reading, optimal fingering, appropriate dynamics, and phrasing
2. The student will make significant progress in learning functional organ skills, including scales, sight reading, and melody harmonization
3. The student will gain a greater knowledge of organ literature
4. The student will be able to critique a musical performance, with specific feedback regarding technical accuracy and artistic interpretation
5. The student will attain greater confidence and satisfaction as an organist

### **Requirements:**

1. Attend all lessons. Excused absences will be made up at the instructor's discretion. **MISSED LESSONS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED.** The following instances constitute an excused absence: 1) documented illness with note from medical provider; 2) family emergency; 3) university-approved activity.

2. Practice outside of lessons is essential to achieving success in this course. For MUS 1211 (one sixty-minute lesson per week), **an average of 5 hours practice per week must be achieved.** Weekly practice goals will be established at each lesson.
3. Make measurable progress in learning new technical skills (scales, sightreading, melody harmonization, and organ literature).
4. At the end of the semester, present a one-page written critique of your progress on learning technical and functional organ skills.

### **Grading:**

A = Outstanding progress; weekly preparation above and beyond level of assignment; exceptional eagerness to learn; artistic incorporation of style, tempo, phrasing, and dynamics

B = Above average progress; weekly preparation demonstrates eagerness to learn; notes and rhythms mostly accurate; consistent use of expressive elements

C = Average progress; weekly preparation demonstrates inconsistent note and rhythmic accuracy; inconsistent use of expressive elements

D = Below average progress; weekly preparation demonstrates frequent note and/or rhythmic inaccuracies; little use of expressive elements

F = Unacceptable progress; weekly preparation demonstrates minimal note and/or rhythmic accuracy; no use of expressive elements

O = Missed lesson

### **Electronics:**

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices during lessons is prohibited.

### **Disabilities Statement:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access for all students in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1973). Students seeking accessibility services for this course should contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., L.P.C., P.O. Box C-122, 112 Ferguson Hall (mschwartz@sulross.edu), or call (432) 837-8203 for more information about specific services available at Sul Ross State University.

