



The Frances Clark Center Teacher Education Courses

Foundational Piano Pedagogy Welcome and Introduction By Craig Sale

Welcome to Foundational Piano Pedagogy, presented by the Frances Clark Center. I'm Craig Sale, Director of Online Courses for the Center, and the course leader for Foundational Piano Pedagogy. When thinking about pedagogy, we are tempted to think about methods and materials. While understanding methods and materials is important to successful teaching, study of the foundational principles that support successful teaching and those materials is the essential and often overlooked heart of piano pedagogy.

This course, Foundational Piano Pedagogy, is not about what to teach, but it's a course about how we teach and why. It will present basic teaching principles along with the theories of learning that support them. You will also be presented with deeper thoughts about the way we use words and communicate. Finally, you will be challenged to explore the essential considerations involved in determining a student's curriculum.

You will be able to work your way through the materials at your own pace. We do want you to progress through the course in the order shown in the menu on the left-hand side of your screen. You will be able to go back and review material you have already covered. Each session or module begins with a brief written introduction to the goals and content of the session. The session will then include video presentations and readings, and either an auto-correcting quiz or reflection activities. The reflection activities are opportunities for you to continue exploring the ideas presented in the session on your own in a practical manner. It is our hope that this course will provide a solid foundation upon which you can build the most successful teaching practice. We are confident that the essential explorations presented here, or what lies at the heart of good teaching, will serve and inspire you throughout your teaching career.