How do you connect the open/ non-specific description of the course description (for main subject private lessons) to your daily lessons and day to day activities? When designing a new course description I propose a bottom to top approach, categorise all the topics and content that you want to teach a student and that you expect a student to learn at a certain stage of his/ her studies. Describe those on a broader/ more abstract level to leave room for each individual student, since they are all unique stylistically. Using this approach you feel more connected to the course description, know what content belongs to it and you can give a student more clear expectations per semester and/ or give a student feedback whenever he/ she is not on track. I think it's very valuable to give a student clear guidance during the semester on their progress, and not only give this feedback at their exam. This way of designing the course description will help me to give them clearer guidance.

For teachers with years of experience this probably comes more natural, but for me as a newcomer I think this approach will help me and the students a lot.

- New teacher at conservatory
  - Reason for presentation
  - Not an expert, but exploring during didactic course
- Started teaching on gut feeling what student needs
- Did not feel connected to the existing course description
- Felt the need to make it more personal and based on day to day experience
  - Find a connection between my day to day lessons and the course description
- How to keep it open enough so it serves all students
- Redesigning course description 'bottom up approach'
- Brainstorm of all topics I covered
- Document of 12 topics + content
- Decided those in 7 main categories
  - Craftsmanship
  - Sound connection to instrument
  - Harmonic knowledge
  - Repertoire
  - Sight reading
  - Study skills
  - Interactive playing skills
- This became the core of my new course description
- Pros for me
  - Per year I know which specific content belongs to which category at a certain level
  - As a new teacher it helps me to keep a good overview at all the facets of the students development
  - I can clearly state the goals for each semester to the students and give them clear feedback along the way, not only at he end of the year
  - The brainstorm document keeps evolving over the years with different students, yet still functions as content for the more abstract course description
  - This is my approach and I am curious about your opinions, approaches and experiences.