

SYLLABUS – SPRING SEMESTER '24

Course: MVO 7460, Violin Performance; 4 credits

Instructor: Dr. Janna Lower, MUB 118

Office Phone: 273-3175

Email: jlower@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 7th Period

Class Schedule: 1 hour private lesson TBA (Rm. 118), Studio Class Tuesday 6th period (Rm. 120)

STUDIO POLICY FOR ALL GRADUATE LEVEL OF VIOLIN STUDY

Grades will be based on three separate factors, each carrying equal weight:

- 1) attendance at lessons, especially etude completion, and general improvement;
- 2) studio class performances;
- 3) the final jury.

1. Attendance:

Attendance at all lessons, studio classes, the professor's concerts, student recitals by members of the Violin Studio and special performances (you will be told about these ahead of time) is mandatory. An absence I don't know about at least 24 hours ahead of time is **UNEXCUSED**, and each unexcused absence automatically lowers your grade one whole letter grade for the attendance portion, as well as the lesson preparation portion (see below). It is almost impossible to receive an A if you are a "no-show". In cases of serious illness or other emergency arising the day of the lesson, text me on my cell phone as well as try to reach me at my office. Absence due to illness must be verified by a doctor's excuse. Always try to call/text me on my cell phone first, anytime between 8 AM and 11 PM. **Email will not cover you, so do NOT email without also texting me that you will be missing a lesson.**

Cell: 352-256-9310

Office Phone: 273-3175

Students are required to monitor their ufl.edu email accounts daily for receipt of communications, announcements, etc. from the professor.

2. Lesson Preparation:

If you come to a lesson unprepared, it will be clear you have not practiced between lessons (which is doing the "homework") and you will receive an F for that lesson. Marked improvement must be demonstrated in the next lesson. (Each unexcused absence lowers your grade one whole letter grade in this category as well.) Etudes are expected to be completed and perfected within 1 week. If you take too long to perfect your etudes, that alone will lower this 25% of your final grade. In addition, you must be able to talk about everything you are studying; you should know: composer's dates, brief biographical sketch, form of each movement, musical definitions, etc. You are not being judged by how advanced you are, but by the effort you put into your assignments, regardless of your ability. If you practice carefully, and do your assignments, you will improve, which is essential to moving on to the next level of study.

3. Studio Class Performances

Performances in studio class are required of all repertoire studied, (except etudes) and will be graded. Works with piano accompaniment must be performed with accompaniment, and heard in a lesson prior to the class. Graduate students are expected to perform a minimum of three times per semester. The grades will be averaged together to achieve this portion of your grade. It is in your best interest to perform as often as possible.

4. Final Jury:

You will be graded and critiqued by the string faculty at the end of the semester. Graduate students must perform for 15 minutes, with 2 contrasting works. Once a work has been performed for a jury, it may never be repeated in another. All works with piano accompaniment must be performed with a pianist; securing a pianist and getting him/her to show up on time for the jury is your responsibility. Your jury grade will be lowered one whole letter grade if you play without piano accompaniment, or if you are late. The grades assigned by each faculty member will be averaged together to arrive at this portion of your grade. If you do not show up, or you are unable to take the jury, you will receive an Incomplete for the semester; a jury will be held as early as possible in the succeeding semester, and the Incomplete removed. Juries are always the Monday after Reading Days.

For students with disabilities: to request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-3008 (TDD).

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COVID19 ADDENDUM

This addendum outlines protocols required by the university to ensure safe instruction for all in the violin studio. The situation, and safety protocols, are evolving constantly. You will be informed as changes occur; protocols may be relaxed as the semester progresses – and infections fall - or the opposite could happen. However, if you have not tested positive, experienced symptoms, or been exposed to someone who tested positive, we are fortunate that we can have live, in person lessons, for which the following requirements may be necessary:

1. All students must be masked at all times. Bandannas, face guards, kerchiefs, gaiters, etc., are NOT acceptable face coverings. Students must procure masks that cover both nose and mouth.
2. Distancing of 6-7 feet is not required as of this writing, but may be re-instated at any time.
3. If any student attends a large gathering or party, etc., especially indoors, where mask-wearing and social distancing were not observed, Dr. Lower must be notified of this, and at her discretion, lessons will continue remotely, not in person, until such time as any potential contagion has passed (generally 2 weeks). There will be no consequence to the grade or standing in the studio for relaying this information.
4. Students must bring their own pencil to the lessons.
5. Students must affirm before entering the studio that they have taken their temperature and it is in the normal range, and that they are not experiencing any other symptoms that could be related to the virus (sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, etc.)

It is noted that at any moment the university – or Dr. Lower - may alter the protocols or suspend in-person instruction, at which time lessons will continue remotely through either Skype, Zoom, prepared videos, or whatever mechanism works best given limitations each student may have for WiFi, etc.