

# MUE 2440 – STRING SKILLS 1

## SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas – [cellist@ufl.edu](mailto:cellist@ufl.edu) (352-273-3169)  
Teaching assistant: Elizabeth Schultz – [schultz.e@ufl.edu](mailto:schultz.e@ufl.edu)  
Schedule and location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup> period (11:45am-12:35pm) - MUB 121  
Office: MUB 125  
Office hours: as posted on office door or by appointment

### Course Description

Introduction to the fundamentals of classroom string instrument instruction and technique (violin, viola, cello, and double bass).

### Objectives

- A. To prepare students to teach the violin, viola, cello, and bass at a beginning level by:
1. Developing competency in basic technical skills on one instrument (primary instrument)
  2. Understanding the similarities and differences between the primary instrument and other instruments of the string family
  3. Knowing the instruments and the function of their component parts
- B. To acquaint students with:
1. Basic do-it-yourself care and maintenance of instruments, bows, and accessories.
  2. Beginning notation, articulation, technique, and terms specific to string instruments.

### Materials

- Required text: D. Hamman and R. Gillespie, *Strategies for Teaching Strings*, Oxford Pub., 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., 2012
- Notebook
- Folder or other system to collect handouts and other materials

### Class Activities

Each student will study one string instrument. Most of the class time will be spent learning to play the instruments. Quizzes and playing tests will cover required homework and may be administered as often as once a week. Classes will also include student presentations and demonstrations.

### Course Schedule

A week-by-week course schedule will be established and distributed on the first day the class meets. However, this schedule will be subject to change at any time to accommodate the pace of progress and assimilation of instruments of the class as a whole.

### Grading

**Attendance (40%)** - The attendance policy is described below.

**Quizzes (10%)** - These will pertain to assignments as well as class discussion.

**Playing tests (15%)**

**Class presentations/demonstrations (20%)**

**Other Activities (“final exam”) (15%)**

Present an organized notebook as the written final that contains all class notes, handouts, assignments, and other materials related to the course. This notebook will serve as a resource guide when you enter the workforce.

**Grades** - Grades are determined by dividing the points earned by the total number of points possible (weighted by category). Grades will be based on current UF grading policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

### **Attendance Policy**

“Class attendance is expected. Each unexcused absence will result in a 10 point reduction in the final grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. A makeup midterm and makeup final exam will be provided for students who miss either exam due to extreme, documented circumstances. A cumulative make-up [quiz/playing test] will be provided at the end of the semester for any and all [quizzes/playing tests] missed. This score will replace all missing [quiz/playing test] grades. Students should arrange with the instructor for makeup material, and the student will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment, if circumstances allow it.” Students are expected to be ready to begin the class promptly; this includes having their instrument ready and tuned, therefore requiring arrival in the classroom several minutes before the scheduled start time of the class. Following the first two occurrences, students not ready to begin on schedule will be penalized 5 points for each instance. Each tardy arrival (15 minutes or more) will result in an 8 point reduction in the final grade.

### **Class Demeanor**

“Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students.” The use of cell phones is prohibited and eating is not permitted in the classroom. “Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.”

### **Course Evaluation**

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.”

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

### **University Honesty Policy**

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.”

This syllabus is subject to change at any time without notice.