

## **MUE 2440 – STRING SKILLS 1 SYLLABUS**

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Office hours: as posted on office door or by appointment  
Schedule and location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup> period (11:45am-12:35pm)  
MUB 121

### **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 play and teach the violin, viola, cello, and bass at various educational levels, with strong focus on heterogeneous group teaching.
- B. To acquaint students with:
  - 1. Care, maintenance, repair, rental and purchase of instruments, bows, and accessories.
  - 2. String notation, articulation, technique, and terms.
  - 3. Current trends in string teaching.
  - 4. Pedagogical literature and resources, repertoire lists, and audiovisual aids related to string instruction.

### **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 at least one string instrument. Most of the class time will be spent learning to play the instruments, as they require a great deal of coordinated small motor movement. Quizzes which cover the required readings will be administered as often as once a week. Classes will also include student presentations and lectures/demonstrations.

### **Course Schedule**

- Week 1:** Introduction to the course and the string instrument family
- Week 2:** Instrument position, pizzicato and first notes with the left hand
- Week 3:** Bow position and new music
- Week 4:** More new music and scales, slurs. Understanding the school orchestra program
- Week 5:** Music notation pedagogy
- Week 6:** playing in 4 parts
- Week 7:** Dynamics and articulation
- Week 8:** Introduction to bowing techniques and terminology: détaché, staccato, martelé
- Week 9:** Learning different instruments of the string family
- Week 10:** Teaching strings – starting a string program. The first class.
- Week 11:** Developing class plans; evaluation and rubrics
- Week 12:** Selecting string methods – survey of existing methods
- Week 13:** Shifting basics
- Week 14:** Vibrato basics
- Week 15:** Teaching

*(N.B. Although the above schedule may vary slightly, all subjects listed will be covered over the course of the semester)*

## Grading

### **Quizzes (35%)**

Quizzes will pertain to reading assignments as well as class discussion.

### **Exams (45%)**

1. Performance exams consisting of prepared material, scales, and sight-reading.
2. Class presentation/teaching.

### **Other Activities (20%)**

1. Concert Review

Turn in a one page (single space; 400-600 words) report of a concert featuring string instruments. Relate your discussion to aspects of string playing we have covered in class.

2. Music Journal Article Review

Turn in a one page (single space; 400-600 words) review of a music journal article (The Instrumentalist, American String Teacher, etc.) relating to a specific aspect of string playing.

3. Class Notebook

Present an organized notebook at 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.

**Grading** - 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 will be provided at the end of the semester for any and all quizzes missed. This score will replace all missing quiz 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.”

## **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. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of 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.