

## MUE 2442 – STRING SKILLS 2 SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas – [cellist@ufl.edu](mailto:cellist@ufl.edu) (352-273-3169)  
Office: MUB 125  
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**

Elements of classroom string instrument instruction and technique (violin, viola, cello, and double bass).

### **Objectives**

To prepare students to play and teach the violin, viola, cello, and bass at various educational levels with emphasis on classroom situations.

To further develop knowledge and understanding of :

1. Playing technique and skills
2. Care, maintenance, repair, rental and purchase of instruments, bows, and accessories.
3. String notation, articulation, technique, and terms.
4. Current trends in string teaching.
5. 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. Much of the class time will be spent learning to play the instruments, as they require a great deal of coordinated small motor movement. Students will continue to study the instrument that used in String Skills 1 in order to develop greater competence in a primary string instrument. Quizzes which cover the required readings will be administered as necessary, sometimes without warning. Classes will also include student presentations and demonstrations.

### **Course Schedule**

The progression of classes is necessarily related to the needs and achievements of individual students and the class as a whole; therefore, no specific listing of individual classes is provided in the syllabus for MUE 2442, but students are provided with class content information at least one week ahead of classroom sessions. Over the course of the semester, however, students in String skills 2 will be introduced to intermediate techniques including positions, shifting, vibrato and bow strokes, as well as teaching materials.

### **Grading**

#### **Attendance (40%)**

#### **Quizzes (20%)**

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

#### **Exams (20%)**

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.

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/scct/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.”

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