

MVS 4640 – STRING INSTRUMENT PEDAGOGY/CELLO (3 CREDITS)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas – cellist@ufl.edu (352-273-3169)
Office: MUB 125
Office hours: as posted on office door or by appointment
Schedule and location: TBA - MUB 121

Course Description

Contemporary techniques for teaching the cello.

Objectives

To prepare students to teach the cello at every level, based on:

1. History of the cello, cello technique and repertoire
2. Familiarity with available printed materials
3. Knowledge of contemporary teaching techniques

Materials

- Notebook and/or laptop computer to prepare dossier of course content
- Library of teaching methods and etudes (provided by instructor and/or available online)
- Access to cello, bow and basic maintenance and performance equipment

Class Activities and General Course Schedule

- Part 1: Study of the history of the cello and its significant performer-pedagogues (c. 3 weeks)
Part 2: Examination of pedagogical materials throughout history (c. 2 weeks)
Part 3: Discussion of contemporary teaching techniques and methods (c. 2 weeks)
Part 4: Teaching practice (c. 7-8 weeks)

Grading

Attendance (50%)

Quizzes (25%)

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

Exams (25%)

- Exams testing knowledge of materials and history.
- Class presentations/teaching

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/) 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.”

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