

Viola Syllabus – Fall 2018

MVS 1412 and 2422, 2 credit hours per semester

MVS 3432 and 4442, 3 credit hours per semester

MVO 6460, 3 credit hours per semester

Time: Private lesson TBA and Studio Class Tuesday 6th Period (12:50-1:40 PM)

Location: MUB 304 (studio class MUB 146)

Instructor

William Johnston, DMA

wjohnston@arts.ufl.edu

Cell Phone/Text: 713-320-2964

Office Hours: By appointment

Prerequisites for all viola lessons

Students must audition before at least three members of the string faculty to be admitted into the studio. Audition requirements are two contrasting pieces and sight-reading. Students who did not audition on a scheduled SOM audition day must arrange an audition before the end of the DROP/ADD period at the beginning of the semester. Non-majors will be accepted on a space-available basis. All violists in the studio must register and play in the University Symphony Orchestra.

Course Description

Requirements for 1412

Typical Technique assignments: Barbara Barber *Scales for Advanced Violists*, 1-position scales, 3 octave scales with acceleration drills (slurred, separate, martele) Whistler *Introducing the Positions vol. 1 and 2*, Kreutzer etudes

At minimum, students are expected to pass off one scale and one etude per week.

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Bruch *Romanze*, Concerti by J.C. Bach, Stamitz, Hoffmeister, Handel

*Students are required to perform in studio class at least twice per semester.

Semester-end juries are 10 minutes and do not require 2 contrasting works. After a work is performed in a jury, it may not be repeated in a later jury.

Requirements for 2422

Technique assignments: All 3-octave major and minor scales must be mastered and memorized with the acceleration drill at $m=60$, Mazas and Kreutzer etudes

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Schubert "Arpeggione," Schumann "Fairy Tales," Glinka Sonata, Bloch *Suite Hebraique*

**Students are required to perform in studio class at least twice per semester.

Semester-end juries are 10 minutes and do not require 2 contrasting works. For all music majors (NOT minors), a Pre-Professional Jury for admittance to the 3000 level is required at the end of the 2nd semester of 2000-level study. 2 contrasting works must be performed in a 15-minute jury; in addition, the student must sight-read and speak for 5 minutes about one of the pieces performed. Students must be passed by

a majority of the faculty present, and the panel will include a faculty member from an outside area.

Requirements for 3432

Technique assignments: 3 octave and one-position scales with a variety of bowings and rhythms, Flesch 3 octave arpeggios in every key, double-stops, Kreutzer and Campagnoli etudes or orchestral excerpts

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Walton or Hindemith Concerti, Sonatas by Hindemith, Clarke or Brahms

***Students are required to perform in studio class at least three times during the semester and should also seek out performance opportunities elsewhere. For the jury in the first semester of 3000-level study, 2 contrasting works for a total playing time of 15 minutes must be presented. For all majors other than the B.M. in Performance, the completion of 2 semesters of MVS 3432, along with the presentation of a junior recital, fulfills the curricular requirement for viola study. The recital program, given in the 2nd semester of 3432, must have program notes on the repertoire performed, must represent a diversity of styles and periods, and must include at least one memorized movement from the unaccompanied cello suites of Bach. The length of the program should not be less than 30 minutes. A jury is required 2 weeks before the recital, in front of all members of the student's committee. The entire program must be ready to be performed; the committee will listen, at its discretion, to 15 minutes of the program. The committee must include the student's professor, another faculty member from the String Area, and a faculty member from outside the String Area. For students continuing on to the 4000 level of study (which includes those seeking the Performer's Certificate) the successful presentation of the Junior Recital is required. Students must be passed by all members of their faculty committee, and the student will be notified as soon as the committee has conferred and reached an agreement. If all members of the committee are present at the recital, it should be that same evening; otherwise, the student must immediately provide a recording of the recital to any absent faculty.

Requirements for 4442 and MVO 6460

Technique assignments: 3 octave arpeggio series memorized at $m=60$, Kreutzer, Campagnoli, Rode etudes and/or orchestra excerpts

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Concerti by Walton, Hindemith or Bartok, Sonatas by Brahms, Clarke, Vieuxtemps, Hindemith, Bloch, or Bowen

**** Students are required to perform in studio class at least three times during the semester and should also seek out performance opportunities in the Friday Convocation. For the jury in the first semester of 4000-level study, 2 contrasting works for a total playing time of 15 minutes must be presented. In the 2nd semester (4442) or 4th semester (6460) of study, a Solo Recital is required, with program notes on the repertoire being performed. The recital program must represent a diversity of styles and periods, and must include at least one memorized movement

from the cello suites of Bach. The length of the program should not be less than 40 minutes. A jury is required two weeks before the recital, in front of all members of the student's committee. The entire program must be ready to be performed; the committee will listen, at its discretion, to 15 minutes of the program. The committee must include the student's professor, another faculty member from the String Area, and a faculty member from outside the String Area.

Course Objectives

- Perform and interpret music of representative styles.
- Present performances of solo and chamber repertoire in a variety of styles and settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply analytical and historical knowledge in live performance.
- Demonstrate an increasingly advanced level of performance skill throughout the four semesters of study, appropriate to semester of study and the liberal arts and music education degree expectations.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Students must have an instrument and bow in good working condition, and students are responsible for regular maintenance and repairs. Strings should be changed every semester and the bow re-haired every year (minimum).
Rehairs: forbows@gmail.com
- Shoulder rest/pad, rosin, metronome, tuner, mute, folder, pencil, cleaning cloth, and notebook/practice log
- Assigned music and scores (if applicable) purchased online or checked out at the library. All students need to purchase the Kreutzer etudes, Bach suites (Peters edition), and a scale book (Barber or Flesch).
- Video or audio recording device (phone, iPad, memory card to use with Zoom, etc.) brought to every lesson and used to record during daily practice.

Course Schedule

- Lessons will be held weekly according to the schedule posted on the door. Any changes must be communicated by email or text at least 24 hours in advance.
- Weekly Studio Class may include: excerpt class, technique class, scale class, guest masterclass, topical workshop, performance class, or area recital.
- Any additional required recitals or masterclasses will be listed on the studio class calendar at the beginning of the semester.

STUDIO POLICY FOR ALL LEVELS OF VIOLA LESSONS

Evaluation of Grades

1. Private lesson grades (25%)
Students are expected to come to each lesson prepared and must keep a log of practice time including date, time, and materials covered for each session. Typical music performance majors log 20-25 hours per week (approximately 4 hours per day, 6 days per week with the following suggested break-down: 1

hour scales/technique, 1 hour excerpts or orchestra/chamber music practice, 2 hours repertoire/etudes). Music education and dual degree students are expected to log 12-18 hours (2-3 hours per day, 6 days per week) at minimum. If you have not already established these practice habits, we will make a plan together and work up to this level gradually so that we avoid over-use injuries.

If you come to a lesson without practicing and preparing assigned materials, you will receive a failing grade for the lesson. An unexcused absence is recorded as a zero for the weekly grade. Weekly grades are determined by sufficient practice, scale and etude completion and appropriate progress on solo works assigned. An "A" student is expected to complete a minimum of 12 scales and 12 etudes per semester.

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. Those starting at MVS1412 must reach the standards of 2422 by the end of the first year; likewise, those studying at the 2422 level must meet the requirements of 3432 before they can move on. All music majors must pass the Pre-Professional Jury before they can be registered for 3432; registration for 4442 is upon successful presentation of the Junior Recital, and is determined by the recital committee of 3 faculty members.

2. Attendance (25%)

Attendance at all lessons, studio classes, the instructor's concerts, student recitals by members of the Viola Studio, and special performances (you will be told about these ahead of time) is mandatory. It is the expectation that students will arrive on time for all events.

A regular lesson schedule will be established at the beginning of the semester. The lesson schedule will be published on the instructor's Outlook calendar, which will serve as the official calendar and be shared with all members of the studio. When regular lesson times are not available for any reason (e.g. school holidays or instructor travel schedule), alternative possibilities will be listed on the Outlook calendar and students will self-populate the schedule.

You must give at least 24 hours notice when missing a lesson time, and absences may be excused only for illness or personal/family emergencies. If you meet these conditions, we can do a make-up lesson at a mutually convenient time or via Skype. You may switch lesson times with another student in the studio without penalty if you must miss your lesson time for any reason. **It is your responsibility to arrange the switch, communicate any changes to all parties involved, and update the Outlook calendar.**

An absence I don't know about at least 24 hours ahead of time is **UNEXCUSED**, and each unexcused absence **counts as a zero for your weekly lesson grade**. 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, leave a message or text me on my cell phone, anytime between 8 AM and 10 PM. Absence two weeks in a row due to illness must be verified by a doctor's excuse. **Email will not cover you, so do NOT email without also texting me that you will be missing a lesson.**

Cell: 713-320-2964

Students are required to check Canvas, ufl.edu email accounts and texts daily to ensure good communication with the professor.

This course conforms to the official UF policy
(<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>)

3. Studio Class (25%)

STUDENTS WHO ARE LATE WILL BE COUNTED ABSENT. Studio class is held weekly, and attendance is required for all viola majors. Studio class may be used for scale class, technique class, orchestral excerpts, viola masterclass, student performance class, or area recital.

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. Undergraduates at the 1000 and 2000 level must perform a minimum of two times per semester; 3000, 4000 and graduate students must perform a minimum of three. 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. Concerti and solo Bach should be memorized. Scale and/or excerpt quizzes are included in this portion of the grade also.

4. Jury Performance (25%)

You will be graded and critiqued by the string faculty at the end of the semester. All those registered at the 1000 and 2000 level need to prepare at least one work for a total of 10 minutes; those registered at the 3000, 4000, and graduate levels must play 2 contrasting works, for a total playing time of 15 minutes. 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 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. Concerti and solo Bach should be memorized.

More information on grades and grading policies is here:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Student Requiring Accommodations

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 that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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/>.

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.

Dress Code:

A performance serves as an event for students to share their music, to hone their performance skills, and to hear peers, music faculty, and guest artists. A performance dress code is implemented so that the enjoyment of the musical experience is not diminished by distractions of inappropriate attire. Students are advised that proper modest, and dignified attire is required when performing in department of music events including student recitals and degree recitals.

1. Absolute No:
 - a. hats
 - b. flip-flops or sneakers
 - c. t-shirts
 - d. jeans or shorts
 - e. skirts above the knee
 - f. strapless or spaghetti-strap tops

2. Recommended attire for men: slacks, button-up collared shirt, dress shoes with socks.

3. Recommended attire for women: dress or skirt/slacks and top, no high-heels higher than 1.5 inches. Dresses/skirts should be knee-length or below.

Any exception to this dress code must be approved by the student's applied professor or the ensemble director.

Consequences for failing to meet the dress code are at the discretion of the applied professor or ensemble director, and may include a lowered grade or the cancellation of the student's performance.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that 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.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.