

## **SAXOPHONE STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

MVW1415, MVW 2425, MVW 3435, MVW 4445, MVO 6460, MVO7460

2020-2021 Academic Year – Fall Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Helton (jhelton@ufl.edu)

GTA: Jessica Small ([smallj@ufl.edu](mailto:smallj@ufl.edu))

**Studio Class:** Monday, 6th period, online only

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91900158631?pwd=VWlzSnpTWjJvRGFzTzFDWk5vM0JTUT09>

**Lessons:** tba

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93650399104?pwd=K21EQVFJcGVVZVBUNY1OVFac0Q0dz09>

**Dr. Helton's Office Hours:** 6<sup>th</sup> period Wednesday, and by appointment. Online only.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92951443707?pwd=dkRIUmhmRDIRVnhZeFIZd2t2SVRjQT09>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Saxophone study at the University of Florida includes several components designed to prepare the student for the rigors of a teaching and performing career in music. Qualified music minors are also encouraged to participate. All students in the studio will take part in the following:

**Private lessons** with Dr. Helton (or in the case of music minors, with one of the graduate assistants) will take place weekly. If Dr. Helton is traveling, undergraduate lessons will be taught by graduate students. Individual instruction will include the development of a comprehensive saxophone technique to enable the student to progress most efficiently. The student will gain a broad knowledge of the saxophone repertoire in the preparation of several performances and recitals. Teaching techniques will also be studied, especially as related to teaching the technique of the saxophone and musical communication.

**Studio classes** will be held on Mondays throughout the semester. The School of Music requires that they stay online during the entire fall semester. Studio class time will consist of student performances, master classes and pedagogical and performance-related presentations and discussion. We will continue to invite guest artists to join us on Zoom for discussions, Q&A, and performance tips.

**Performance examinations** (juries) will take place at the end of each semester. You will be responsible for a program of repertoire and etudes studied during the current semester. Additional requirements will be added for the Pre-Professional Jury, and for recital permission juries.

**Student recitals** are required of all music majors in the junior and senior years. Additional non-required recitals are encouraged. Graduate students are encouraged to perform one recital during each year of residence.

**Graduate pedagogy seminar** will meet regularly to discuss teaching techniques, method books, repertoire, and job strategies. Graduate students will be expected to be active in teaching activities throughout their course of study.

**Large ensemble participation** is required during each semester of applied music registration, as space allows, and as assigned by the ensemble directors. It is expected that you will make a positive contribution to the ensemble to which you are assigned. Make the most of this opportunity. The only all-online ensemble offered this semester is Saxo Band. Other ensembles will operate in small units.

## OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course of study (four years for undergraduates, two years for MM students, and hopefully no more than three years for DMA students), the student should have a solid command of the technique of the saxophone, and be able to apply the practice and study techniques learned here in preparing new repertoire. The student should know a certain canon of saxophone repertoire well enough to: identify particular performance problems in the works, know a few details of the composer's life, know the form of the works, and be familiar with the musical language of the pieces. The student will also gain first-hand knowledge of a wide variety of performing situations. He/she should be able to anticipate problems which might be encountered in these situations and provide well thought-out approaches to solving these problems. The student will learn effective practice techniques and will know basic pedagogical approaches to teaching performance fundamentals.

## MATERIALS

Students will be required to purchase etude books and music for use in lessons, as assigned. Reeds, mouthpieces, metronomes, and other equipment may also need to be purchased. A professional quality instrument (alto saxophone) is required for music majors and is strongly suggested for music minors. For online lessons, a computer and an external microphone will be needed.

## MAKE-UP LESSON POLICY

If you must miss your lesson for any reason, make a concerted effort to swap times with someone else. Do not wait until the last minute to do this; no one will want to change to a lesson that is coming up very soon. If you cannot find anyone to change times with you, contact me well in advance and I will try to re-schedule your lesson for that week. I will make every effort to teach make-up lessons myself, but there is a chance that rescheduled lessons will be taught by grad students. Rescheduled lessons that are missed will not be rescheduled a second time.

## EVALUATION

Studio Grades will be based on the following weighting scale:

Preparation for lessons	70%
Studio class solo performance	10
Studio class/Area meeting attendance	10
Juried performance exam (jury)	10

### Grading Scale:

94-100 A	88-90 B+	78-80 C+	68-70 D+	0-66 E
91-93 A-	84-87 B	74-77 C	61-67 D	
	81-83 B-	71-73 C-		

Each lesson will be worth four points, awarded as follows:

- 4 – Excellent, well prepared
- 3 – Okay. Needed more practice this week
- 2 – Poorly prepared
- 1 – Not prepared to play
- 0 – Absent, no advanced notice, no attempt to communicate or to make it up

Lessons the 16th week will be for extra credit.

Points for attendance will be divided between all required events.

More information on grades and university grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance lessons and studio classes is integral to the nature of applied music learning and is required. Occasionally, a lesson may be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor and if time allows. Advance notice must be given for any rescheduling. Make-up and lessons rescheduled at the student's request that are missed will not be made up. Requests for unavoidable absences from lessons or studio classes must be submitted to the instructor in writing (email is fine) for prior approval. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES SUMMARY, ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**

### **I. Performance**

- \* You must be prepared for your lessons. Daily practice is essential.
- \* You must perform in studio class, as assigned. (Master classes, étude performance, etc.)

### **II. Attendance**

- \* Attendance at required concerts, studio classes, and lessons is mandatory.

III. Performance Exams/Juries will take place on Monday, December 14.

## **PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS**

*Repertoire* :: A minimum of two separate solo works for saxophone should be studied each semester. At least one of these should be a major work (sonata, concerto, or other extended work). During a year in which the student is preparing a recital, more repertoire will be required. Approximately 10 études should be perfected each semester. During semesters in which the student is preparing a recital, fewer études will be required.

*Technique* :: Scales should make marked improvement each semester. In order to stay on schedule, at least one set of twelve scales/intervals should be checked off (in sixteenth-notes at 152) each semester. Winter and summer can be used to learn additional sets or to catch up, as needed.

*Practice* :: Regular practice will be required to meet the above expectations. Daily practice is best. Performance majors will want to practice at least 3 hours per day. Other music majors should plan on at least 2 hours per day. Music minors will need at least one hour per day to succeed in studio. Graduate students will want to practice more. Progress is made in the practice room. The more you practice the easier it is to play the instrument. Also remember, somewhere else there are saxophonists who are practicing. Don't let them pass you up.

## **MATERIALS AND SUPPLY FEE**

MVW 1415, 2425, 3435, 4445: \$50

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

## **ACADEMIC HONOR 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 (<http://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.

## **STUDENTS REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO 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.

## COVID ACCOMMODATIONS

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions in any face-to-face meetings

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### Saxophone Studio Class Weekly Schedule

*Meets every Monday  
Attendance required*

#### Fall 2020

Week 1	August 31	Introduction to the course
Week 2	September 7	<i>Holiday, no classes</i>
Week 3	September 14	Tips for Getting Stuff Done: Practicing at Home / Efficient Practicing
Week 4	September 21	<b>Guest Artist</b> Gerard McChrystal, Trinity Laban Conservatoire/Cardiff University
Week 5	September 28	Saxophone Talk
Week 6	October 5	The Online Master Class: Tips and Tricks
Week 7	October 12	<b>Guest Artist</b> Kyle Horch, Royal College of Music, London
Week 8	October 19	<b>Guest Artist</b> Shyen Lee, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
Week 9	October 26	<b>Solo Performances:</b> Everyone will perform in studio!
Week 10	November 2	Job Interviews: Making a Good Impression
Week 11	November 9	<b>Guest Artist</b> Barry Cockroft, Melbourne University, Australia ( <b>time TBA</b> )
Week 12	November 16	Reeds, Saxophone Repair
Week 13	November 23	<b>Grad Student Presentations</b>
Week 14	November 30	Post-Thanksgiving Monday
Week 15	December 7	Online Party!
<b>Juries:</b>	December 14	

*Dates and class content/requirements subject to change.  
Syllabus updates will be communicated via email.*