

# Syllabus - Fall 2020

## MVS 3433 - Cello Performance (2 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas (273-3169 - cellist@ufl.edu)

Office hours: online only, by appointment / Class schedule: see addendum below

### 1. Prerequisites for all cello study

Students must pass an audition before at least three members of the string faculty. Students may audition during one of the regularly scheduled School of Music audition days or must arrange an audition before the end of the ADD/DROP session at the beginning of the semester in which they wish to enroll.

Auditionees must prepare two contrasting pieces or movements representing different musical styles, and sight-reading will be given. Students who are neither music majors nor minors will only be accepted if space is available in the studio. **All students accepted for cello study must register and play in the University Symphony Orchestra or other approved ensemble.**

### 2. Prerequisites for MVS 3433

All music majors must pass a Pre-Professional jury at the end of MVS 2423 for admission into MVS 3433. In addition to performing their jury works, they are expected to speak for 5 minutes about one of their pieces and provide knowledgeable answers to questions from the faculty panel concerning both historical and theoretical aspects of the music they just performed. Additionally, sightreading will be given. Students must be passed by a majority of the faculty present at the Pre-Professional jury to be eligible to register for MVS 3433. Minors and non-majors will only be accepted into MVS 3433 if they meet the same technical standards. Note: Minors are required to take at least one semester of MVS 3433 to complete their Minor.

### 3. Objectives

Development of advanced technical and interpretative skills as a cellist, expansion of repertoire, significant presence as a performer, as demonstrated in an end-of-semester jury to be performed to members of the School of Music Faculty.

### 4. Course Content

Students develop fluency in advanced technique, including the ability to perform any 4-octave scale or arpeggio on demand. Etudes are more advanced and repertoire is expanded. Performances should not be restricted to studio classes and outside venues should be pursued. Semester-end juries must feature 2 different works for 15 minutes of playing. A junior recital must be given in the 2nd semester of MVS 3433, consisting of no less than 35 minutes of music of contrasting styles, and including 3 movements from one of the first 3 Bach Suites, performed from memory. A jury is not required for the semester in which the junior recital is given. (100pts\*)

The following repertoire must be learned **each semester** and performed with a level of proficiency and fluency deemed appropriate by the School of Music Faculty:

- a) Scales and Arpeggios - 6 major and 6 minor (4-octaves) (24pts\*)
- b) Etudes: 6 Popper Etudes ("High School") (60pts\*)
- c) Bach: 3 movts of Suites No. 2 & 3, BWV 1008-9 - 2 movts must be memorized (60pts\*)
- d) 1 movement of a standard concerto (memorized) or sonata -
  - sample concerti: Haydn D, Schumann, Elgar
  - sample sonatas: Boccherini A, Beethoven Op 69, Shostakovitch (60pts\*)
  - Additionally, students are required to attend and participate in a weekly studio class, performing three times during each semester and making two one-minute verbal "performance introductions" of a work to be performed (60pts\*)
  - Each student must also listen to a recording or live performance of one work of cello repertoire and submit a one-paragraph report on the work every other week (14pts\*)

- Up to 20pts\* may be earned for general attitude, behavior and progress
- 22pts will be awarded for a performance in a venue outside studio class

NOTE: These are MINIMUM requirements. Adjustments may be made depending on each individual's experience and needs.

\*N.B. A point system determines the student's semester grade – the maximum number of points attainable for each section of the course content is shown. The final grade is determined according to the formula listed below.

## GRADING

End-of-semester jury: an average will be determined from grades earned from faculty; this average will yield the following points:

A = 100 pts, A- = 91 pts, B+ = 83 pts, B = 75 pts, B- = 66 pts, C+ = 58 pts, C = 50 pts,  
Lower grades = 0 points

Final Grade: A: 380-420pts A-: 350-379pts B+: 315-349pts B: 280-314pts B-:  
250-279pts C+: 215-249pts C: 180-214pts C-: 150-179pts D+: 115-149pts D: 80-114pts  
E: 79pts or less

### **Addendum to Syllabi for all Cello Studio and String Chamber Music Courses – Fall 2020**

*IMPORTANT: The following is subject to change at any time. Any students enrolled in affected courses will immediately be informed by e-mail of any changes.*

- 1) SCHEDULING:** classes will be offered on a hybrid schedule, with one out of every three classes being in-person and others online.

In-person classes will be held: August 31-September 4  
September 21-25  
October 12-16  
November 2-6  
November 16-20  
Post-Thanksgiving TBA

- 2) STUDIO CLASSES:** while regular studio classes are planned, their location and format is to be determined. Students should expect studio classes to take place every Tuesday during 6<sup>th</sup> period, either in-person or online.
- 3) EXAMS and PERFORMANCES:** the format and schedule of end-of-semester juries and chamber music performances will be confirmed shortly.
- 4) SAFETY IN CELLO STUDIO AND CHAMBER MUSIC COACHINGS:** university regulations and safety protocols must be observed at all times. Face masks will be worn and social distancing observed at all times. No exceptions can be made *for any reason*. Failure to comply before or during a class will result in the immediate cancellation of the class and

non-complying students will be reported to UF administration. Additional music-specific guidelines will be explained during the first studio class or initial chamber music coaching.

- 5) PROCEDURES/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONLINE CLASSES:** online classes will be conducted on the *Zoom* platform. In the event communication through *Zoom* is not possible, students should be prepared to use *Skype* or *WhatsApp* as back-ups.
- a) Desktop or laptop computers with an internal or external camera must be used – tablets and cell phones are only acceptable in a demonstrable emergency.
  - b) The use of an external microphone is highly recommended
  - c) In *Zoom*, “original sound” must be enabled

**Cello Studio:**

- a) Cello students may use the cello studio or another location for lessons, and should plan for a setting which is both comfortable and conducive to productivity.
- b) Cameras/computers should be placed at a height of 4ft-5ft, with distance from the student and angle allowing for a full front view from head to bottom of the body of the cello

**Chamber Music:**

A single computer should be used for the entire group, with every effort made to find an angle from which each member of the group can be seen while maintaining social distancing.

## CELLO STUDIO POLICIES

### 1. Attendance

- (a) Students are expected to attend weekly lessons as scheduled. The schedule will be posted on the studio door.
- (b) Requests for excused absences must be made by e-mail as soon as the necessity for absence is known, and at least 3 days prior to the requested date. This includes absences for ALL religious observances (note: you must be a practicing member of the religion for which you are requesting an absence).
- (c) The legitimacy of excused absence requests will be determined solely by the Instructor.
- (d) No-shows will result in automatic lowering of a student's grade (-34pts), unless the no-show is caused by medical emergency requiring an immediate visit to a medical facility or by a catastrophic personal event.

### 2. Punctuality

Students must be ready to begin their lessons at the scheduled time. Following the first instance of lateness each semester, which does not carry a penalty, any subsequent occurrence from 5 to 15 minutes will be counted as ½ a no-show (-17pts). Lateness of more than 15 minutes will be considered a no-show. Excuses for and consequences of lateness follow the guidelines of 1(d) above.

### 3. Demeanor, dress code, etc

- (a) Students are expected to dress appropriately for all cello lessons and studio classes. Tank tops and mini-skirts are not permitted. Knee-length (or longer) clothing is strongly recommended.
- (b) Cell phones must be turned off prior to entering the classroom.
- (c) Gum chewing is not permitted during any performance related activity, including orchestra

and chamber music

#### **4. Studio class**

Attendance at weekly studio classes is mandatory. Students are expected to perform at least twice each semester during studio class.

#### **5. School of Music cello-related events**

Students are required to attend all cello recitals by fellow students enrolled in the cello studio, faculty or visiting artists, cello masterclasses, string chamber music masterclasses and other cello-related events. All events under this rule will be announced by e-mail by the instructor and posted on the studio door. In case of a conflict with a legitimate prior commitment, the instructor must be informed of the conflict within 24 hours of the announcement of the event. Legitimate prior commitments include academic obligations to the University and/or School of Music, religious observances, critical personal events that cannot be rescheduled and non-refundable travel.

#### **6. Communication**

The primary form of communication outside the studio and classroom is e-mail. Students should make every effort to check every day the e-mail address given to the instructor. Calls to the instructor's cell phone should only be made when necessary and urgent.

#### **7. Academic honesty**

When registering at UF, every student signed the following statement: *"I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."* The Cello Studio fully supports the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

#### **8. Student code of conduct**

Students are expected to obey the University of Florida's code of conduct at all times.

#### **9. Course materials**

(a) Students are expected to purchase printed sheet music as required and recommended by the Instructor. Xeroxed copies are not permitted if in violation of copyright law. The total average annual cost of required sheet music should not exceed \$100.

(b) Recordings used for research and study must also be obtained in compliance with copyright laws.

#### **10. Special needs**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student which must be presented to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

#### **11. Acknowledgement of receipt**

All students must fill out this page and return to the instructor at the beginning of each semester.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have received and read a copy of the  
**Syllabus and Studio Policy for Cello Performance (Course MVS\_\_\_\_\_)**  
and hereby agree to abide by all its provisions and policies.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UF ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_