

Clarinet Studio at the University of Florida

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Mitchell Estrin
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Studio Website: www.arts.ufl.edu/music/clarinet
Course Numbers: MVW 1413, 2423, 3433, 4443
Credit Hours: MVW 1413 & 2423 – 2 credit hours per semester
MVW 3433 & 4443, MVO 6460– 3 credit hours per semester
Academic Year: 2023-2024
Office Hours: Office Hours available by appointment.
Please use a UFL.EDU email address when communicating with me.
I will respond within 48 hours.

Course Description

Clarinet Studio at the University of Florida is designed to instill the knowledge and develop the skills necessary to prepare the student to pursue a professional career in music. Each course is divided into three components: lessons, studio class, and clarinet ensemble. Lessons and studio class are the core components (2-3 credit hours per semester) of the course. Clarinet ensemble is an additional component of the course, and each student must register for the ensemble in order to receive credit. (Course numbers: MUN 1460 & MUN 3463 – 1 credit hour per semester).

Instructor's Educational Philosophy

As a teacher, it is my responsibility to offer each student the opportunity to learn and progress in the art of music. It is my goal to help students reach their musical potential. It is my desire to impart in each student my acquired musical knowledge and a lifelong dedication towards musical excellence. It is also my desire to share my artistic achievements and professional expertise. I wish to pass on the musical knowledge and traditions that have been instilled in me during my years of study and throughout my experiences as a performer, educator, and human being. It is my intent to nurture musical and artistic growth through inspirational instruction and a structured, goal-oriented curriculum. I will endeavor to provide a supportive and positive learning environment where I can offer constructive criticism when necessary. I will adhere to the highest artistic standards and will maintain high expectations of all students regardless of their background or level of study. I will be realistic in my expectations. I will strive for open and honest communication with each student in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

Private Lessons

The weekly lesson curriculum will be structured to address the fundamental and technical aspects of clarinet performance. Emphasis will be placed on learning the art of musical interpretation, with attention being paid to the historical background and stylistic nuances

appropriate to the repertoire being studied. All students will be instructed in performance technique.

Clarinet Studio Class

The weekly studio class is a series of masterclasses covering a wide variety of performance related and pedagogical topics. Emphasis will be placed on instruction and discussion of:

- Reed adjustment
- Solo repertoire
- Orchestral repertoire
- Chamber music repertoire
- Equipment selection
- Instrument maintenance
- Clarinet pedagogy
- Historic recordings

Student presentations can be an integral part of the class as well. Guest lecturers and performers will be invited to visit the class on a regular basis. The Clarinet Studio Class takes place on Monday during 6th period.

Course Outline

The instructor will make individual repertoire assignments at the beginning of the semester. Course content will include:

- Scales
- Articulation exercises
- Etudes and studies
- Orchestral repertoire
- Chamber music
- Transposition studies
- Solo repertoire
- Reed selection and adjustment
- Audition preparation
- Coping with performance anxiety

Particular attention will be paid to instruction of practice technique and instituting strategies for overcoming instrumental deficiencies and difficulties. Each student is expected to work diligently in preparation for the weekly studio lesson.

Course Objectives

The primary objectives of the Clarinet Studio curriculum will be to strengthen and enhance the fundamental and technical musical skills of each student and to explore and refine the art of musical interpretation. Students are encouraged to develop their musicianship through listening to, researching, reading, and performing all styles of music. Emphasis will also be directed towards developing a working knowledge of the standard clarinet literature, including historical significance, form, and style. Students are encouraged to listen critically to themselves at all times in order to gain independence in musical and technical problem solving and to consistently improve their performance.

Instructor's Expectations

Each student is required to practice daily and learn all assigned materials for the weekly lesson. This means daily structured practice sessions. Each student is expected to work diligently towards a mastery of all the scales and arpeggios including:

- Major
- Minor
- Chromatic
- Wholetone
- Pentatonic
- Thirds
- Dominant sevenths
- Diminished sevenths
- Others as assigned by the instructor

All students are expected to warm-up *before* their lesson. Performance repertory should be learned well in advance of scheduled concert dates. All course materials required and/or assigned by the instructor are expected to be purchased in a timely manner. Instruments are expected to be maintained properly and in excellent mechanical condition. The instructor also expects a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards the course and its related activities. All students in the Clarinet Studio are expected to be supportive, respectful, and helpful to other members of the studio.

All instruments (and their cases), mouthpieces, music, and related equipment borrowed from the Clarinet Studio are to be treated with appropriate care and respect. By borrowing said items, the student accepts full financial responsibility should the item be lost, stolen, or damaged. ***Studio instruments are never to be loaned to another student or taken off campus without the permission of Professor Estrin.*** Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of sign-out privileges.

Grading Procedure

There are six grading components that will be taken into account:

- 1) 20% of the final grade comes from quality of *Lesson Preparation*
- 2) 20% of the final grade comes from quality of *Lesson Performance*
- 3) 20% of the final grade comes from the *Jury Grade*
(average of grades given by faculty)
- 4) 20% of the final grade comes from *Studio/Area/Convocation Performance*
- 5) 10% of the final grade comes from quality and level of *Class Participation*
- 6) 10% of the final grade comes from *Attendance Record*
(based on adherence to the attendance/tardiness policy)

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67

B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	Below 60	0.00

Each course component will be graded independently. The grades awarded by the instructor for each of the six components will be added together and the total earned grade average will dictate the final grade.

Extra credit can be earned with approval from the instructor. Additional credit can be awarded for research projects, performing on student recitals and/or masterclasses, performing on auxiliary instruments, distinguished accomplishments, special projects undertaken, and service to the Clarinet Studio.

Attendance/Tardiness Policy

Attendance will be taken at **ALL** studio activities. Students are required to attend all lessons and studio classes. *Additionally, students are required to attend all clarinet studio recitals, area recitals, and any school concert or convocation where a member of the clarinet studio or guest artist is performing.* Each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of one letter grade from the attendance component of the final grade. If you are unable to attend a lesson, studio class, clarinet studio recital, area recital, school concert or convocation, you must notify the instructor in person or by email at least 24 hours before the scheduled activity. Failure to do so will result in a one letter grade deduction. Lessons missed due to an unexcused absence will not be made up. The only exceptions to this policy will be due to an emergency or other extreme extenuating circumstance and will be at the sole discretion of the instructor. Tardiness of more than ten minutes will result in a half-letter grade deduction from the attendance component of the final grade.

Juries

All students enrolled in the clarinet studio are required to perform a jury for the Woodwind Area faculty at the end of each semester of study. The jury will consist of a ten-minute prepared program. This program will include a *minimum* of two contrasting repertoire pieces, and a combination of etudes and/or orchestral excerpts which have been studied during the current semester and approved by the studio teacher. Each student will present the jury with three copies of their music and a printed program, which will include the titles of the selections to be performed, the names of the composers and their dates. In addition, the student will complete a Semester Repertoire Report, which specifies all materials studied during the current semester. The student will perform the

selections in program order; however, the faculty may request the other selections listed on the program at any time during the performance. Additional requirements will be added for the Pre-Professional Jury and for recital approval juries. Please consult with the instructor or the School of Music Student Handbook for further information.

Recital Performances

All students in the Clarinet Studio are required to perform in a minimum of one student recital each semester. This includes Convocation Recitals, Woodwind Area Recitals, and Studio Class Recitals. Assignments will be made at the beginning of the semester by the instructor as to which recital category a student will perform in and the repertoire to be performed. *It is the student's responsibility to find an accompanist (at their own expense) and to schedule adequate rehearsal time.* Lessons with accompaniment should take place a *minimum of twice* before the recital.

Solo recitals are required of music majors as follows:

- ❖ Junior: Performance Majors and Music Education Majors
- ❖ Senior: Performance Majors and Music Education Majors who are seeking a Certificate in Performance
- ❖ All second-year graduate students.

NOTE: Written program notes are required for all solo recitals.

Large Ensemble Participation

Each student in the Clarinet Studio is required to enroll and participate in one of the School of Music major performing ensembles. Placement will be made through competitive auditions at the beginning of each semester.

Studio Website

The University of Florida Clarinet Studio Website is designed as an educational forum and communication tool. Students are encouraged to contribute their ideas and creativity to the site. The instructor will consider any relevant materials for inclusion on the site. All students are invited to share in the responsibilities of maintaining the website. The site will be updated as necessary. <http://arts.ufl.edu/sites/clarinet-studio/welcome/>

Studio Listserv

The University of Florida Clarinet Studio maintains a listserv for informational exchange between Professor Estrin and members of the studio. The listserv is available strictly for studio members to communicate studio business and other pertinent information. All users are required to adhere to acceptable codes of conduct, or they will be removed at the sole discretion of the instructor. The listserv address is: CLARSTUDIO-L@lists.ufl.edu

Academic Honesty

The university's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following link:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

The Honor Code Oath: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* 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.”*

Students Requesting Accommodations Due to Disabilities

I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. At the same time, anyone requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide you with the necessary documentation, which you must then provide to me when requesting accommodation. To request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-1261(V), 392-3008 (TDD).

Available Support Services

University of Florida Counseling & Wellness Center

Contact information:

Address:

3190 Radio Road
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/uf-students>

Student Confidentiality

Student records are confidential. Only information designated “UF directory information” may be released without your written consent. Please see University Regulation 6C1-4.007 for a list of information designated as “UF directory information”. UF views each student as the primary contact for all communication. If your parents contact me about your grade, attendance, or any information that is not “UF directory information”, I will ask them to contact you. You may 1) provide the information your parents seek directly to them or 2) contact the University Registrar’s Office for additional information.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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/> .

Required Materials

- C. Baermann - Method for Clarinet, Third Division (David Hite or Carl Fischer edition)
- C. Rose – 40 Studies for Clarinet, Books 1&2 (Carl Fischer edition)
- R. Kell – 17 Staccato Studies (International edition)
- N. Heim – The Development of the Altissimo Register for Clarinet (Kendor Music)
- P. Hadcock - The Working Clarinetist (Roncorp)

R. McGinnis - Orchestral Studies, Volumes 1&2 (International edition)
C. Ammer – The A to Z of Foreign Musical Terms (ECS Publishing)
Solo repertoire (as assigned)
Metronome
Tuner
Jeweler’s Screwdriver Set

Reed Supplies:

- Reed Clipper (Cordier or Vandoren)
- Glass Plaque
- Reed Knife (Double hollow ground)
- Reed Rush
- Wet/Dry Sandpaper (grades 320, 400 & 600)

Additional Suggested Materials

C. Rose – 32 Etudes for Clarinet (Carl Fischer edition)
R. Stark – Practical Staccato School, Part III (Anton J. Benjamin, IMSLP)
D. Bonade – A Clarinetist’s Compendium (Leblanc Educational Series)
K. Opperman – Handbook for Making and Adjusting Single Reeds (Chappell)
J. Brymer – Clarinet (Schirmer Books)
T. Ridenour – Clarinet Fingerings: A Comprehensive Guide for the Performer and Educator (Leblanc Educational Publications)

Other excellent reading, research, and listening materials are available in the Clarinet Studio and Fine Arts Library.