

Syllabus – Spring 2024

MVO 6460 - Music Performance (cello) (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas

Contact: 273-3169 - cellist@ufl.edu

Office hours: by appointment

Class schedule: 1 hour private lesson - TBA (Room 121); Studio Class - Tuesday 6th period (Room 142)

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 period at the beginning of the semester in which they wish to enroll.

2. Prerequisites for MVO 6460

Students must have earned a bachelor's degree (or equivalent for international students) in cello performance at an accredited institution

3. Objectives

To build upon the review of skills undertaken in semester 1 in order to achieve a highly professional technical level, and to develop a unique and personal performance style built on stylistic knowledge and advanced analytical abilities.

4. Course Content

Materials and repertoire are highly individualized and are determined in consultation between the instructor and student. Repertoire must be learned and performed with a level of proficiency and fluency deemed appropriate by the School of Music Faculty, and will usually include advanced etudes, selections of unaccompanied Bach Suites, movements of sonatas and concerti.

Performing skills and interpretation will be regularly evaluated in studio lessons and at weekly studio classes.

Additionally:

- a)** Students must perform an end-of-semester jury which will feature at least 2 different works for 15 minutes of playing
- b)** Students are required to attend and participate in a weekly studio class, performing at least twice during the semester and making one-minute verbal "performance introductions" of works to be performed
- c)** All students in the cello studio perform with Cellorando, the cello ensemble at UF

GRADING

Semester grades are determined according to the following criteria:

- a) attendance at lessons, studio classes and cello ensemble rehearsals and performances (20% of grade)
- b) demonstrated and consistent progress throughout the semester (30% of grade)
- c) performance level at studio classes as evaluated by faculty in attendance (20% of grade)
- d) performance evaluation by faculty in attendance at end-of-semester juries (30% of grade)

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.