

**SAXOPHONE STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
MVW1415, MVW 2425, MVW 3435, MVW 4445, MVO 6460, MVO7460

2024-2025 Academic Year – Fall Syllabus  
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Helton ([jhelton@ufl.edu](mailto:jhelton@ufl.edu))  
GTAs: Josh Huff ([jhuff1@ufl.edu](mailto:jhuff1@ufl.edu))

**Studio Class:** Monday, 6th period in **MUB 101**.  
Should we ever need to hold a class via Zoom: <http://bit.ly/SaxStudio>

**Lessons:** TBA. In-person, or online at <http://bit.ly/SaxophoneLessons>

**Dr. Helton's Office Hours:** As listed on the weekly lesson schedule, or by appointment. In-person, or online at <http://bit.ly/HeltonOfficeHours> Online meetings must be scheduled in advance.

### **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. Studio class time will consist of student performances, master classes and pedagogical and performance-related presentations and discussion.

**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.

### **OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course of study (four years for undergraduates, two years for MM students, and 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. **Makeup lessons will only be offered via Zoom.** Contact Dr. Helton as soon as you know you will need to reschedule.

### **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

91-93 A-

78-80 C+

61-67 D

88-90 B+

74-77 C

0-66 E

84-87 B

71-73 C-

81-83 B-

68-70 D+

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 last week of the semester 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 9.**

## **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 etudes should be perfected each semester. During semesters in which the student is preparing a recital, fewer etudes 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 breaks 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: \$60; MVW 3435, 4445: \$70; MVO 6460, 7460: \$30

## **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/scer/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.

### **SAXOPHONE STUDIO CLASS**

Meets every Monday at 12:50 pm in MUB 101

#### **Weekly Schedule** *Attendance required*

#### **Fall 2024**

Week 1 August 19 *Classes begin on Thursday.*

Week 2 August 26 Introduction to the course, Syllabus overview

Week 3 September 2 *Holiday, no classes*

Week 4 September 9 Etude Performances : Everyone will perform an etude in class

Week 5 September 16

Week 6 September 23 *Area Recital*

Week 7 September 30

Week 8 October 7 *Area Recital*

Week 9 October 14 Graduate Student Master Class

Week 10 October 21 *Area Recital*

Week 11 October 28

Week 12 November 4 *Area Recital*

Week 13 November 11 *Veterans' Day Holiday*

Week 14 November 18 *Area Recital*

Week 15 November 25 *Thanksgiving Break*

Week 16 December 2

**Juries:** December 9

#### **Fall Required Concert/Event Attendance**

November 5, 7:20 pm, MUB 101 Saxophone Ensembles Concert

#### **Upcoming events of Note**

January 10-11, US Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium, Washington, DC

April 4-6, North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Conference, Lake Charles, Louisiana

April, Lake Wauburg, Saxophone Studio Picnic and Kickball Game

May 12-June 11, UF Saxophones in Paris: Summer A study abroad program in Paris, France

*Dates and class content/requirements subject to change.*

*Syllabus updates will be communicated via email.*

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