

**MUE 3311 Music in Elementary Schools
University of Florida
Course Syllabus Fall 2025**

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Office Hours: MT Pd. 4 10:40am-11:30am; other times available by appointment

Credits: 3
Class meeting time: TR Period 2-3
(8:30am-10:25am)

Graduate Teaching Assistants:
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Course Catalogue Listing

Fundamental principles and procedures of music education in elementary school.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to prepare pre-service music teachers to teach elementary general music in the public schools. Students will gain experience with approaches to teaching music (Kodaly, Orff, Dalcroze, and Modern Band), observe and work with local music teachers in the schools, design and implement developmentally appropriate music instruction, and collect and analyze musical resources for the elementary music classroom. Students will also demonstrate functional skills on the recorder, ukulele, guitar, and classroom percussion instruments.

Course Learning Outcomes

Through full participation in this course, students will be able to:

1. Design and teach developmentally appropriate, sequential music curriculum and assessments based on the Florida music standards.
2. Teach music concepts through singing, playing, moving, listening, and creating.
3. Explain the musical development of children and demonstrate appropriate teaching sequences for the elements of music.

Textbooks

Required:

- Burton, S. L., & Reynolds, A. M. (2018). *Engaging musical practices: A sourcebook for elementary general music*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Additional readings and resources will be provided through the course Canvas page.

Materials

Required:

- Video recording device (smartphones, tablet, etc.)
- Yamaha Soprano Recorder (supplied)

Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs)

The FEAPs are how you are formally evaluated for purposes of eventual licensure. Your development as a music educator is assessed and tracked beginning in this class. You will also be formally assessed in MUE 3330 Music in the Secondary Schools, in MUE 4421/4422 Teaching Secondary Choral/Instrumental Music, and during the student teaching semester. The tasks and assignments in all of these classes are designed with the FEAPs in mind. These assessments are tracked in *Student Learning and Licensure* (see below for information).

CNAfME Membership and Participation Requirement

All music education students must participate in the student chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). You must attend the monthly meetings. Attendance is taken at meetings. Information on meeting schedule will be given during the first week of classes. Participation and engagement in these meetings fulfills FEAPs 5d, 5e, and 5f.

Required State Certification Test – Only applies to transfer students

In order to pass this class, you must either take and pass the Florida General Knowledge Test before the end of classes on **Dec. 3, 2025** or verify that your scores on the SAT/ACT meet the thresholds below. To register for the General Knowledge Test, go to <http://www.fl.nesinc.com/testPage.asp?test=GK> There is a fee of \$130.

GK SUBTEST	ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT	MINIMUM REQUIRED ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT SCORE
GK Essay		
	GRE Analytical Writing	A combined score of 4 out of 6
	SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	A score of 560
	ACT English	A score of 22
	CLT Verbal Reasoning & Grammar/Writing	A combined score of 49
GK English Language Skills		
	GRE Verbal Reasoning	A score of 151
	SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	A score of 560
	ACT English	A score of 22
	CLT Verbal Reasoning & Grammar/Writing	A combined score of 49
GK Reading		
	GRE Verbal Reasoning	A score of 151
	SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	A score of 560
	ACT Reading	A score of 23
	CLT Verbal Reasoning & Grammar/Writing	A combined score of 49
GK Mathematics		
	GRE Quantitative Reasoning	A score of 147
	SAT Mathematics	A score of 540
	ACT Mathematics	A score of 22
	CLT Quantitative Reasoning	A score of 20

Student Learning and Licensure – Required

As a music education major, you are required to purchase a membership to Student Learning and Licensure. This is required for all teacher certification programs and serves as a way to track assessments related to all of your core coursework. You must purchase the membership to Student Learning and Licensure by **October 9, 2025**. Directions and additional information will be distributed in class. There is a fee of \$139.

ACPS Fingerprinting and Background Clearance – Required

You will be required to have a Fingerprinting and Background Clearance for Alachua County Public Schools by **September 4, 2025**. The cost is approximately \$80 and must be done through Alachua County. It is good for five years. This is so you are able to complete the practicum component of this course in the public schools. Directions for obtaining the clearance can be [found here](#).

Required Computer Capabilities

Throughout the semester we will use Canvas, Microsoft Word, and Zoom as needed. To use these resources, you will need to have a computer. The Microsoft software is available for free for you to use as a UF student. It is expected that you have a working computer and that all assignments are typed and submitted as a **Word Document** unless otherwise noted.

A Canvas course will be used in this class as a means to disseminate information and for assignment submissions and grading. To access it use a web browser of your choice and use the following URL: <https://ufl.instructure.com/>

Selected readings and other resources may be placed on reserve in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/music/>

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA POLICIES

Students Requesting Accommodations due to Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for the completion of assignments is not permitted unless the instructor has given you written permission. When written permission is given, guidelines and expectations will be provided. Using AI without permission from the instructor will be considered in violation of the honor code as stated above.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Course Evaluation Process

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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

UF Grading Policies

Current UF grading policies can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Attendance at all course meetings and practicum days is expected and required as a part of your enrollment in this class. Active participation in class activities is critical to the achievement of the learning objectives for this course, and many class activities cannot be effectively replicated for make-up work outside of class interactions. In addition, attendance at professional commitments (such as class meetings) is a critical dispositional skill for music teachers.

The University of Florida recognizes the following acceptable reasons for absence from class: illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). The University also recognizes the right of instructors to require documentation for absences other than religious holidays.

The music education faculty recognize that it is occasionally necessary for students to be absent from class for reasons other than those listed above. Personal commitments, self-care, and balancing workload are necessities for all people, including students and teachers. As developing teachers, however, it is important that students develop the ability to navigate these challenges while still fulfilling their professional obligations. Therefore, the faculty have adopted the following attendance policies:

- Absences for reasons recognized by the University of Florida (listed above) are always excused with proper documentation. Documentation must be provided to the instructor no later than two weeks after the student returns to class. This includes absences for illness. Note: A Verification of Visit form from the Student Health Care Center is not considered a medical excuse note. See the SHCC's policy on excuse notes [here](#). Students with excused absences will be excused from the participation points for days missed.
- Students will be excused for two (2) absences per semester that are undocumented or occur for reasons other than those listed above ("personal absence"). Students using personal absences cannot earn participation points for the classes missed. Students are responsible for maintaining an awareness of how many times they have been absent and whether those absences have been excused or unexcused.
- Each undocumented or personal absence beyond the 2-absence limit will incur a 3% deduction from the final course grade in addition to forfeiture of participation points for classes missed.
- If a student is late to a class meeting without a documented and approved reason, they will be considered tardy and will forfeit one participation point for that class. Three tardies will result in a 3% deduction from the final course grade.

Class Participation

The activities that will occur during class meetings are essential to meeting the course objectives. Your verbal skills, critical and creative thinking abilities, and overall understanding will be directly affected by the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of your contributions to the class. The dynamics of this course and its ultimate value to you necessitate that you to come to each class prepared (having read assignments, when applicable), contribute questions and comments to stimulate discussions, and fully engage in the content and activities of each class meeting.

Communications

Students are expected to check their UF email account daily for course announcements. All communication is expected to be professional and courteous. When contacting a professor, GA, or classmate, please begin your email with a greeting and sign your name at the conclusion of the message. If you send an email to the professor or a GA during the week (M-F), you can expect a reply within 24 hours (barring any extenuating circumstances). We will respond to emails sent between Friday at 5pm and Monday at 8am as we are able.

Practicum Attendance Policy

Fieldwork is an important component in the process of becoming a music educator. As part of this course, you will complete approximately 20 hours of Practicum at a combination of a designated local elementary school and at the UF Early Childhood Collaboratory (teaching PreK). *Ten of those hours must be in your assigned ACPS elementary school.* You will be expected to be present for all practicum hours. If you miss any hours, you will be required to make it up on your own time in coordination with your cooperating teacher. Absences will not be permitted.

Transportation

You are responsible for your own transportation to local schools. You must either have your own method of transportation (car, scooter, etc.) or coordinate with a classmate to give you a ride to your assigned school. Some schools are within the RTS bus system.

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are due on the date specified. Late work will not be accepted. Accommodations, modifications, and extensions may be provided on a case-by-case basis upon communication with and approval of the instructor.

In addition to all assigned course readings, students will complete the following assignments and projects. Additional information about them will be provided in class. All written assignments will be typed and submitted through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

ASSESSMENTS

<u>Component</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Engagement	Active participation in class, Including PFDs and discussions; Code of ethics micro course; Recorder Proficiency	30%
Teaching	Assigned teaching episodes done in class with lesson plans; teaching at the ECC; ACPS Practicum; Weekly Log of reflections and lesson plans	60%
Written Work	Gradebook, CNAfME reflections	10%

You will also be assessed according to the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs) within Student Learning and Licensure. You will be rated on a scale of 1-4 on each of the FEAPs indicated on the handout distributed in class. These ratings do not affect your grade in the course; however, failure to achieve a 3 or higher could impact your ability to progress toward licensure.

Grading Scale	
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 & below	F

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Additional Important Information

Video Recording

As music education majors, students will be video recorded on many occasions, most commonly when peer teaching. Video files are used for classroom assessment, which qualifies as a public record according to Florida law.

Written Assignments

Written assignments must be typed and use good writing style, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Papers should use 1-inch margins, double spacing, and 12pt Times Roman font.

It is each student's responsibility to submit assignments on time, check grades online, and monitor his/her course grade throughout the semester.

MUE 3311 Music in Elementary Schools Course Calendar

EMP = Engaging Musical Practices

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas

Date	Topics	Read	Assignments Due by 8:30am
8/21	Introduction – Livetext, FTCEs, Procedures Music and Children		
8/26	The how, what, and why of elementary music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMP Ch. 1 • Review NGSSS – www.CPalms.org • Review National Music Standards https://nafme.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2014-Music-Standards-PK-8-Strand.pdf 	• PFD #1
8/28	Children’s Vocal Development Playing Classroom Instruments Listening	EMP Ch. 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rote Song Choice • PFD #2 • ACPS Clearance (Due 9/4)
9/2	Listening and Moving	EMP Ch. 4 Canvas: “Teaching Movement and Dance” Weikart Ch. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rote Song • PFD #3
9/4	ECC	Canvas: “What I Learned in VPK: Teacher’s Guide”	• ACPS Clearance
9/9	Peer Teaching - Creative Movement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Movement • Weekly Reflection Log
9/11	ECC	Memorize assigned songs	
9/16 ACPS 1	Teaching All Children: Inclusive Practices	EMP 11 Canvas: “Early Childhood Music” Marshall (Ch. 2 in Winding it Back (2016))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #4 • Weekly Reflection Log
9/18	ECC	ECC Preparation	
9/23 ACPS 2	Classroom Instruments Lesson Planning	EMP Ch. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #5 • Weekly Reflection Log • Children’s Book Selection

9/25	ECC	ECC Preparation	
9/30 <i>ACPS 3</i>	Sound to Symbol: Presenting Names (syllables) and Notation	EMP Ch. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ostinato and Bordun • PFD #6 • Weekly Reflection Log
10/2	ECC	ECC Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to purchase LiveText
10/7 <i>ACPS 4</i>	Reading, Writing, Composition, and Improvisation	EMP Ch. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #7 • Weekly Reflection Log
10/9	ECC	ECC Preparation <i>Gator Band Day at ECC</i>	
10/14 <i>ACPS 5</i>	World Cultures and Music	EMP Ch. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #8 • Children's Book Lesson • Weekly Reflection Log
10/16	ECC	Teach Children's Book Lesson	
10/21 <i>ACPS 6</i>	Technology and Classroom Management	EMP Ch. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #9 • ECC Lesson Plan for 10/23 • Weekly Reflection Log
10/23	ECC	ECC Preparation <i>Dr. Sheridan & GAs @ SMTE</i>	
10/28 <i>ACPS 7</i>	Assessment	EMP Ch. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #10 • Weekly Reflection Log • Code of Ethics Micro Course
10/30	ECC	ECC Preparation	
11/4 <i>ACPS 8</i>	Flex Day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECC Lesson Plan for 11/6 • Weekly Reflection Log
11/6	ECC	ECC Preparation	
11/11 <i>ACPS 9</i>	Teaching Folk Dances	EMP Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFD #11 • ECC Plan for 11/13 • Weekly Reflection Log
11/13	ECC	ECC Preparation	

11/18 ACPS 10	Flex Day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECC Plan for 11/20 • Weekly Reflection Log
11/20	ECC	ECC Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradebook Evaluation • CNAfME Reflections
11/25	No Class - Thanksgiving		
11/27	No Class - Thanksgiving		
12/2	Folk Dancing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folk Dance Plan • Weekly Reflection Log
12/8 3pm-5pm	Final – Folk Dancing Continued		

This calendar is a guide and will be modified as needed.