

MUE 2450: WOODWIND SKILLS I

Flute Section – Fall 2025

MW 11:45 am – 12:35 pm

Professor: Dr. Kristen Stoner

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Office hours: TBA

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Required Materials:

Flute (provided)

Cleaning cloth and rod (provided)

Binder for handouts and assignments

Guidebook for Flute Skills Instruction (2014) – Dr. Mary Birkner (available on Canvas)

Course Description: This course is for students studying music education to teach instrumental music at the elementary and secondary levels. The semester course is split into two sections with seven weeks spent studying the flute and seven weeks studying the clarinet. Students will learn appropriate and effective performance and pedagogical techniques for both instruments.

Course Objectives: This portion of the course aims to prepare students to teach beginning and intermediate-level flutists. Pedagogical techniques and methods will be introduced to the student. The course will primarily focus on techniques including tone production, embouchure formation, articulation, fingerings, posture, hand position, and breathing.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to use effective pedagogical strategies for beginning flutists.
- Demonstrate knowledge of beginning to intermediate flute performance techniques.
- Develop fundamental performance and practice techniques.
- Demonstrate proper tuning exercises and basic flute repair and care.
- Gather resources to teach beginning and intermediate level flutists.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is required in order for the student to succeed in the course. Students are allowed one absence from this section of the course with no questions asked. For each additional unexcused absence, the flute portion grade will be lowered by 5 points. Habitual tardiness (more than two instances) will be considered an absence and will also lower the flute portion grade by 5 points. This policy will only be revoked under extreme circumstances. Students are responsible for getting notes and handouts from another student in the class (the instructor will not provide missed materials).

- An absence due to illness will be excused with documentation from the Health Center or a physician that excuses you from class. Other excused absences require documentation (see the instructor). It is common courtesy that you notify the instructor of an absence in advance when possible.

Technology: We will be using UF's Canvas software for accessing class materials.

- **Cell phones should be silenced and put away before class starts. Any other electronic devices are ONLY to be used to take notes.**

Course Requirements:

Performance Tests – Playing tests will be given every two weeks. Students will be notified of the assigned scales/ passage in advance and will perform for the rest of the class. Students may be asked to evaluate peers’ performances for pedagogical purposes.

Written Quizzes – Quizzes will be given every two weeks and will be based on topics discussed in class and reading assignments since the previous quiz.

Resource Binder –Throughout the semester, students will be given resources/handouts. Students will compile and organize these, in addition to resources they will find on their own, into a notebook or binder that can be used as reference in their future teaching careers.

Class Participation/ Preparation – Throughout the course, students will be randomly selected to review previously learned material that may involve demonstrating for the rest of the class.

Grading:

- Performance tests (4 x 10 points each)	40 points
- Written tests (4 x 10 points each)	40 points
- Resource Binder	10 points
- Class participation/ preparation	10 points
TOTAL.....	100 points

The final grade for the course will be the average of both the flute and clarinet sections.

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Course Schedule – Fall 2025 *(Tentative and subject to change)*

Class 1 (Aug. 25/ Oct. 13)

- Distribute instruments.
- Review syllabus and course expectations.
- Introduce sound production on the flute and embouchure formation.
- Practice producing a sound on the headjoint.

Assignment: Review proper embouchure formation. Practice making a sound on just the headjoint.

Class 2 (Aug. 27/ Oct. 15)

- Review sound production on the flute and embouchure formation.
- Review producing a sound on the headjoint.

- Review sound production and embouchure formation.
- Introduce proper assembly of the instrument and care of the flute.
- Introduce hand positions and the fingering chart.
- Discuss basic articulation and breathing.
- Introduce fingerings for F, G, A, and B-flat.
- Introduce F Major etudes

Assignment: Review fingerings for F, G, A, and Bb. Practice playing the first musical etude and “Hot Cross Buns.” Read pg. 67-82 in “Information for the Flute Skills Student.”

Class 3 (Sept. 3/ Oct. 20)

- Review proper assembly of the instrument, hand positions, articulation, and breathing.
- Introduce proper sitting and standing posture.
- Review fingerings for F, G, A, and B-flat.
- Introduce the “Lightly Row” etude.
- Extend the range for one octave F major scale by introducing fingerings for C, D, E.
- Introduce one-octave F major scale and F major etude, “Are You Sleeping?”
- Introduce instruments that comprise the flute family, including transpositions and playing ranges.
- Discuss considerations for selecting flutists.

Assignment: Practice playing the F major scale and F major etude. Read pg. 63-67 in “Information for the Flute Skills Student.”

Prepare for Playing Test #1. Prepare for Written Quiz #1.

Class 4 (Sept. 8/Oct. 22)

Written Quiz #1 – during class

Playing Test #1 – F major scale and F major etude – during class

- Review proper seated and standing posture.
- Use checklists to review proper posture/assembly of instrument/hand positions.
- Review basic articulation and use of embouchure and airstream to produce higher notes on the flute. Introduce fingering for E-flat. Extend playing range for a one octave B-flat major scale and the B-flat major etudes: “Long, Long Ago,” and “America”
- Have students play in both seated and standing positions.

Assignment: Review B-flat major scale, “Long, Long Ago,” and “America.”

Class 5 (Sept. 10/ Oct. 27)

- Introduce tactics for tuning flutes and adjusting intonation.
- Practice with a tuner.
- Introduce alternate fingering possibilities for B-flat. Review B-flat major scale and B-flat major etudes.

Assignment: Review Bb-flat major scale and etudes. Prepare for Written Quiz #2. Read pages 82-87 in “Information for the Flute Skills Student.”

Class 6 (Sept. 15/ Oct. 29)

Written Quiz #2 – during class

- Review intonation concepts.
- Practice tuning flutes with tuners.
- Discuss tone development, including vibrato.
- Review B-flat major scale and etudes.

Assignment: Review B-flat major scale and etudes. Prepare for Playing Test #2.

Read pages 96-98 in “Information for the Flute Skills Student.”

Class 7 (Sept. 17/Nov. 3)

Playing Test #2: B-flat major scale and B-flat major etude – during class

- Introduce factors for instrument selection including features of beginning, intermediate, and professional model flutes.
- Introduce fingering for A-flat, low E-flat, high D and high E-flat.
- Introduce E-flat major scale and etudes.

Assignment: Review new fingerings, E-flat major scale, and etudes, “Simple Gifts,” and “Lavender’s Blue.” Read pages 87-89 in “Information for the Flute Skills Student.”

Class 8 (Sept. 22/Nov. 5)

- Discuss seating of flutes in band or orchestral setting.
- Review tone development and intonation concepts.
- Review two-octave E-flat major scale and etudes.
- Introduce online resources and famous flutists.

Assignment: Review E-flat major scale and etudes. Prepare for Written Quiz #3.

Sign up for individual help time slots.

Class 9 (Sept. 24/Nov. 10)

Written Quiz #3 – during class

- Review E-flat major scale and etudes.
- Duet playing.
- Discuss blending of sound within a flute section.
- Review first flute lesson concepts.

Assignment: Prepare for Playing Test #3: E-flat major scale and etude. Read pages 98-100 in “Information for the Flute Skills Student.”

Class 10 (Sept. 29/Nov. 12)

Playing Test #3: E-flat major scale and etude – during class

- Discuss advanced tonguing techniques: double, triple, flutter tongue, etc.
- Introduce fingering for D-flat. Introduce A-flat major scale and etudes, “Chester,” and “Yankee Doodle.”

Assignment: Practice A-flat major scale, and etudes. Experiment with vibrato warm-ups and double tonguing.

Class 11 (Oct. 1/Nov. 17)

- Piccolo basics, piccolo repertoire, selecting a piccolo player.

- Talk about band method books, beginning flute method books, and flute repertoire.
- Review A major scale and etudes.
- Review Ab major scale and etudes.

Assignment: Experiment with vibrato warm-ups. Practice Ab major scale and etudes.

Class 12 (Oct. 6/Nov. 19)

- Method book review.
- Review Ab major scale and etudes
- Extended Techniques (optional)

Assignment: Prepare for and submit Playing Test #4: A-flat major scale and etude.

Prepare for Written Test #4. Finalize notebook.

Class 13 (Oct. 8/Dec. 1)

Playing Test #4 – during class

Written Quiz #4 – during class

Flute Notebooks – due during class.

- Duet Playing.
- Tie up any remaining loose ends.
- Sanitize flutes.

(Second group – Class on Dec. 3 if necessary for catch-up)

*** There is no final exam for the flute portion of Woodwind Skills**