

## **SYLLABUS – FALL SEMESTER '25**

### **Course: MVS 1411, Violin Performance; 2 credits**

Instructor: Dr. Janna Lower, MUB 118

Phone: 273-3175

Email: jlower@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 7th Period, AND BY APPOINTMENT

Class Schedule: 1 hour private lesson TBA (Rm. 118), Studio Class Tuesday 6th period (Rm. 120)

### **PREREQUISITES FOR ALL VIOLIN STUDY**

Violin study is open to students who can successfully pass an audition before at least three members of the string faculty. Those students who have not auditioned during one of the regularly scheduled School of Music audition days must arrange an audition before the end of the ADD session at the beginning of the semester in which they wish to enroll. Two contrasting pieces or movements representing different musical styles must be prepared, and sightreading will be given. Those students who are neither music majors nor minors will be accepted only on a space-available basis. All students accepted for violin study must register and play in the University Symphony Orchestra.

### **PREREQUISITES FOR MVS 1411**

Students must have a solid ability in the first three positions as well as a solid reading ability. They also should know the major and minor scales in 3 octaves. The repertoire listed below represents an absolute minimum expectation, and Music Majors should be more advanced than the level implied in the typical etudes and repertoire below, even though they may begin their study at this level. Mastery of the repertoire below, or whatever may be assigned during the course of 2 semesters of study, is essential to move on from this level.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

The higher positions (4th and above) will be taught, and double stop technique will be focused on. Technique will be developed through the weekly preparation of etudes, which are expected to be perfected in a week's time. Vibrato will be taught through the use of exercises. 2 Studio Class performances of repertoire studied will be required. Semester-end juries require 10 minutes of playing time; 2 contrasting works are not required at this level (but may be presented in order to achieve the required 10 minutes). Once a work has been performed in a jury it may not be repeated in a later jury.

Typical Etudes: Kayser Op. 20, 36 Elementary and Progressive Studies

Kreutzer 42 Studies

Whistler, Introducing the Positions, Vol. 1 and 2

Typical Repertoire: Bach's E Major Partita

Concerti of Bach, Mozart G Major Concerto

Kreisler "Praeludium and Allegro"

**For all other information, please consult the Studio Policy below which outlines all expectations and requirements for all levels of violin study.**

### **STUDIO POLICY FOR ALL LEVELS OF VIOLIN STUDY**

Grades will be based on three separate factors, each carrying equal weight:

- 1) lesson attendance and preparation, especially etude completion, and general improvement;
- 2) studio class performances;
- 3) the final jury.

#### **1. Attendance and Lesson Preparation:**

Attendance at all lessons, studio classes, the professor's concerts, student recitals by members of the Violin Studio and special performances (you will be told about these ahead of time) is mandatory. An absence I don't know about at least 24 hours ahead of time is **UNEXCUSED**, and each unexcused absence automatically lowers your grade one whole letter grade for the attendance portion, as well as the lesson preparation portion (see below). It is almost impossible to receive an A if you are a "no-show". In cases of serious illness or other emergency arising the day of the lesson, text me on my cell phone as well as try to reach me at my office. Absence due to illness must be verified by a doctor's excuse. Always try to call/text me on my cell phone first, anytime between 8 AM and 10 PM. **Email will not cover you, so do NOT email without also texting me that you will be missing a lesson.**

Cell: 352-256-9310

Office Phone: 273-3175

**Students are required to monitor their ufl.edu email accounts daily for receipt of communications, announcements, etc. from the professor.**

If you come to a lesson unprepared, it will be clear you have not practiced between lessons (which is doing the "homework") and you will receive an F for that lesson. Marked improvement must be demonstrated in the next lesson. (Each unexcused absence lowers your grade one whole letter grade in this category as well.) Etudes are expected to be completed and perfected within 1 week. If you take too long to perfect your etudes, that alone will lower this 33% of your final grade. In addition, you must be able to talk about everything you are studying; you should know: composer's dates, brief biographical sketch, form of each movement, musical definitions, etc. You are not being judged by how advanced you are, but by the effort you put into your assignments, regardless of your ability. If you practice carefully, and do your assignments, you will improve, which is essential to moving on to the next level of study. Those starting at MVS1411 must reach the standards of 2421 by the end of the first year; likewise, those studying at the 2421 level must meet the requirements of 3431 before they can move on. All music majors must pass the Pre-Professional Jury before they can be registered for 3431; registration for 4441 is upon successful presentation of the Junior Recital, and is determined by the recital committee of 3 faculty members.

## **2. Studio Class Performances**

Performances in studio class are required of all repertoire studied, (except etudes) and will be graded. Works with piano accompaniment must be performed with accompaniment, and heard in a lesson prior to the class. Undergraduates at the 1000 and 2000 level must perform a minimum of two times per semester; 3000, 4000 and graduate students must perform a minimum of three. The grades will be averaged together to achieve this portion of your grade. It is in your best interest to perform as often as possible.

## **3. Final Jury:**

You will be graded and critiqued by the string faculty at the end of the semester. All those registered at the 1000 and 2000 level need to prepare at least one work for a total of 10 minutes; those registered at the 3000, 4000, and graduate levels must play 2 contrasting works, for a total playing time of 15 minutes. Once a work has been performed for a jury, it may never be repeated in another. All works with piano accompaniment must be performed with a pianist; securing a pianist and getting him/her to show up on time for the jury is your responsibility. Your jury grade will be lowered one whole letter grade if you play without piano accompaniment, or if you are late. The grades assigned by each faculty member will be averaged together to arrive at this portion of your grade. If you do not show up, or you are unable to take the jury, you will receive an Incomplete for the semester; a jury will be held as early as possible in the succeeding semester, and the Incomplete removed. The day of the jury will be announced as soon as it is finalized.

For students with disabilities: to request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-3008 (TDD).

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/>.

This addendum outlines protocols to ensure safe instruction for all in the violin studio. The situation, and safety protocols, continue to evolve. You will be informed as changes occur; protocols may be relaxed as the semester progresses – and infections fall - or the opposite could happen. However, if you have not tested positive, experienced symptoms, or been exposed to someone who tested positive, we are fortunate that we can have live, in person lessons, for which the following requirements MAY be requested:

1. Students may be requested to wear a mask, and may wear a mask if their comfort level requires it. If so, bandannas, face guards, kerchiefs, gaiters, etc., are NOT acceptable face coverings. Students must procure masks that cover both nose and mouth, and masks should be N95 or KN95.
2. Distancing of 6-7 feet is not required as of this writing, but may be re-instated at any time.
3. Students must affirm before entering the studio that they have taken their temperature and it is in the normal range, and that they are not experiencing any other symptoms that could be related to the virus (sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, etc.)

It is noted that at any moment the university – or Dr. Lower - may alter the protocols or suspend in-person instruction, at which time lessons will continue remotely through either Skype, Zoom, prepared videos, or whatever mechanism works best given limitations each student may have for WiFi, etc.