

## **Viola Syllabus – Fall 2025**

MVS 1412 and 2422, 2 credit hours per semester

MVS 3432 and 4442, 3 credit hours per semester

MVO 6460, 3 credit hours per semester

MVO 7061, 3 credit hours per semester

MVS3970 Junior Recital Strings, MVS4971 Senior Recital Strings,

MUS7951 Individual Project (DMA recital)

Time: Private lesson TBA and Studio Class Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Period (12:50-1:40 PM)

**Scale/Ensemble Class Thursdays 6th Period (12:50-1:40 PM)**

Location: lessons in MUB 304 (classes in MUB 142)

### **Instructor**

Lauren Hodges, DMA

[lhodges@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:lhodges@arts.ufl.edu)

Phone: office 352-294-7900 or via cell (preferred)

Office Hours: 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays or by appointment

### **Prerequisites for all viola lessons**

Students must audition before at least three members of the string faculty to be admitted into the studio. Audition requirements are two contrasting pieces (usually one movement of solo Bach and one movement from a standard concerto) and sight-reading. Students who did not audition on a scheduled SOM audition day must arrange an audition before the end of the DROP/ADD period at the beginning of the semester. Non-majors will be accepted on a space-available basis. All violists in the studio must register and play in the University Symphony Orchestra.

### **Course Description**

#### **Requirements for 1412**

Typical Technique assignments: Barbara Barber *Scales for Advanced Violists*, 1-position scales, 3 octave scales with acceleration drills (slurred, separate, martele)

Whistler *Introducing the Positions vol. 1 and 2*, Kreutzer etudes

At minimum, students are expected to complete one scale and one etude per week.

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Bruch *Romanze*, Concerti by J.C. Bach, Stamitz, Hoffmeister, Handel

\*Students are required to perform in studio class at least twice per semester. Semester-end juries are 10 minutes and do not require 2 contrasting works. After a work is performed in a jury, it may not be repeated in a later jury.

#### **Requirements for 2422**

Technique assignments: All 3-octave major and minor scales must be mastered and memorized with the acceleration drill at m=60

Mazas and Kreutzer etudes, Whistler *Introducing the Positions vol. 2*

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Schubert "Arpeggione," Schumann "Fairy Tales," Glinka Sonata, Bloch *Suite Hebraique*

\*\*Students are required to perform in studio class at least twice per semester. Semester-end juries are 10 minutes and do not require 2 contrasting works. For all music majors (NOT minors),

a 15-minute Pre-Professional Jury is required at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2000-level study for admittance to the 3000 level. 2 contrasting works must be performed in a 10-minute jury, and the student must sight-read and speak for 5 additional minutes about one of the pieces performed. Students must be passed by a majority of the faculty present. If the student fails any portion of the PPJ (repertoire, technique, sight-reading, or speaking), it must be repeated at the beginning of the subsequent semester and provisional acceptance into 3000 level may be granted.

### **Requirements for 3432**

Technique assignments: 3 octave and one-position scales with a variety of bowings and rhythms, Flesch 3 octave arpeggios in every key, double-stops, Kreutzer and Campagnoli etudes or orchestral excerpts

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Walton or Hindemith Concerti, Sonatas by Hindemith, Clarke or Brahms

\*Students are required to perform in studio class at least three times during the semester and should also seek out performance opportunities elsewhere. For the jury in the first semester of 3000-level study, students must present two contrasting works for a total playing time of 15 minutes. For all majors other than the B.M. in Performance, the completion of 2 semesters of MVS 3432, along with the presentation of a junior recital, fulfills the curricular requirement for viola study.

**Requirements MVS3970 Junior Recital:** The recital program, given in the 2nd semester of 3432, must represent diverse styles and periods, include at least one memorized movement from Bach's unaccompanied cello suites, and have program notes on the repertoire performed. The length of the program should be at least 30 minutes. A jury is required 2 weeks before the recital, in front of all members of the student's committee. The entire program must be ready to be performed, and the committee will listen, at its discretion, to 15 minutes of the program. The committee must include the student's professor, another faculty member from the String Area, and a faculty member from outside the String Area. For students continuing on to the 4000 level of study (which includes those seeking the Performer's Certificate) the successful presentation of the Junior Recital is required. Students must be passed by all members of their faculty committee, and the student will be notified as soon as the committee has conferred and reached an agreement. If all members of the committee are present at the recital, it should be that same evening; otherwise, the student must immediately provide a recording of the recital to any absent faculty.

### **Requirements for 4442, MVO 6460, and MVO 7061**

Technique assignments: 3 octave scales and arpeggio series memorized at m=60, Kreutzer, Campagnoli, Rode etudes and/or orchestra excerpts

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Concerti by Walton, Hindemith or Bartok, Sonatas by Brahms, Clarke, Vieuxtemps, Hindemith, Bloch, or Bowen

\* Students are required to perform in studio class at least three times during the semester and should also seek out performance opportunities in Student Performance Convocations and area recitals. For the jury performances, students must present two contrasting works for a total playing time of fifteen minutes.

## **Requirements for MVS4971 Senior Recital Strings or MUS7951 Individual Project (DMA recital)**

A Senior Recital is required during the second semester of 4442 with program notes on the repertoire being performed. Graduate students in the MM and DMA programs will register for the Individual Project and follow the same plan during any semester where he/she plans to perform a solo recital. The recital program must represent diverse styles and periods and must include at least one memorized movement from Bach's cello suites. The length of the program should be at least 40 minutes. A jury is required two weeks before the recital in front of all members of the student's committee. The entire program must be ready to be performed, and the committee will listen, at its discretion, to 15 minutes of the program. The committee must include the student's professor, another faculty member from the String Area, and a faculty member from outside the String Area.

### **Course Objectives**

- Perform and interpret music of representative styles.
- Present performances of solo and chamber repertoire in a variety of styles and settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply analytical and historical knowledge in live performance.
- Demonstrate an increasingly advanced level of performance skill throughout the four semesters of study, appropriate to semester of study and the liberal arts and music education degree expectations.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

- Students must have an instrument and bow in good working condition, and students are responsible for regular maintenance and repairs. Strings should be changed every semester and the bow re-haired every year (minimum).  
Rehairs: [forbows@gmail.com](mailto:forbows@gmail.com) or [arroyobows@gmail.com](mailto:arroyobows@gmail.com)
- Shoulder rest/pad, rosin, metronome, tuner, mute, folder, pencil, cleaning cloth, and notebook/practice log
- Assigned music and scores (if applicable) purchased online or checked out at the library. All students need to purchase the Kreutzer etudes, Bach suites (Peters edition), and a scale book (Barber).
- Video or audio recording device (phone, iPad, Shure microphone, Zoom, etc.) brought to every lesson and used to record daily practice and scale submissions.

### **Recommended Books and Resources**

Melissa Matson, *Exploring Excerpts: a violist's guide to building skills for orchestral playing, Complete, Parts 1 and 2*, by Melissa Matson, PDF. [Available for purchase here.](#)

Molly Gebrian, *Learn Faster, Perform Better: A Musician's Guide to the Neuroscience of Practicing*, Oxford University Press, 2024. Available for purchase [here](#).

### **Course Schedule**

- Lessons will be held weekly according to the schedule posted on the door. Any changes must be communicated by email or text at least 24 hours in advance.
- Weekly Studio Classes may include excerpt class, technique class, scale class, guest masterclass, topical workshop, performance class, or area recital
- Additional required recitals or masterclasses will be listed on the studio class calendar at the beginning of the semester. Attendance will be graded.




## STUDIO POLICY FOR ALL LEVELS OF VIOLA LESSONS

### Evaluation of Grades

1. Weekly grades (50%)

### Weekly lesson grades (100 points each)

Students are expected to come to each lesson prepared. If you come to a lesson without practicing and preparing assigned materials, you will receive a failing grade for the lesson. Weekly grades are determined by sufficient practice, etude/excerpt completion, scale submission and appropriate progress on solo works assigned (see rubric below):

Lesson Grade							  
Criteria	Ratings						Pts
Description of criterion	100 pts A	90 pts A-	85 pts B	75 pts C	65 pts D	0 pts E/U	100 pts
	Well-prepared. Many improvements made from previous week on all assigned materials, and great effort	Mostly well-prepared but might be missing an assigned component: scale, etude, log, excerpt,	Somewhat prepared with some improvements made from previous week, good effort	Not very well-prepared with very little improvements made from previous week; mediocre effort	Poorly prepared with no improvement made from previous week. Poor effort	No preparation or improvements made, no effort. Missed lesson (unexcused absence) or more than 5	

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 MVS1412 must reach the standards of 2422 by the end of the first year; likewise, those studying at the 2422 level must meet the requirements of 3432 before they can move on. All music majors must pass the Pre-Professional Jury before they can be registered for 3432; registration for 4442 is upon successful presentation of the Junior Recital and is determined by the recital committee of 3 faculty members.

\*You must give at least 24-hour notice when missing a private lesson, and absences may be excused only for illness or personal/family emergencies. If you meet these conditions, I will offer a make-up lesson in person or via Zoom according to your class schedule provided on or before the first day of class each semester. You may switch lesson times with another student in the studio without penalty if you must miss your lesson time for any reason. It is your responsibility to arrange this and then communicate any changes to all parties involved.

An absence I don't know about at least 24 hours ahead of time is **UNEXCUSED**, and each unexcused absence **counts as a zero for your weekly lesson grade**. **If you are more than five minutes late, the lesson will be graded as an unexcused absence.** In cases of serious illness or other emergency arising the day of the lesson, leave a message or text me on

my cell phone, anytime between 8 AM and 10 PM. Absence two weeks in a row due to illness must be verified by a doctor's excuse. **Students are required to check Canvas, ufl.edu email accounts and texts daily to ensure good communication with the professor.**

### **Practice Log**

Students must keep a notebook for weekly assignments and practice journal/log. Typical music performance majors log 20-25 hours per week (approximately 4 hours per day, 6 days per week). Music education and dual degree students are expected to log 12-18 hours (2-3 hours per day, 6 days per week) at minimum. If you have not already established these practice habits, we will make a plan together and work up to this level gradually so that we avoid overuse injuries. For health and wellness, it is important to take one day off every week.

\*Try using a timer for 25 min segments followed by a 5 min break (Pomodoro method). 50 min of practice within each hour to avoid injury and keep your mind sharp!

### **Suggested break-down:**

1/3 Warm-up, basics and scale

1/3 Etude and Bach

1/3 Concerto

Additional time on chamber and orchestral repertoire as needed

## **2. Studio and Scale/Ensemble Class (25%)**

Attendance at studio classes, scale/ensemble classes, and required events is mandatory. You will receive the Studio Class Calendar listing all required events at the beginning of the semester. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the full duration of all events listed. 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. Please plan work schedules and other obligations accordingly so that you can attend.

### **Required Recitals for Fall 2025**

**Sept 13 Viola Day 2-6:15pm in MUB 101**

**Sept 23 Sheila Browne, 7:20pm in MUB 101**

**Nov 16 Spectrum 101, 7:20pm in MUB 101**

Zoom etiquette: Keep your camera on and stay engaged for the duration of virtual studio and/or guest masterclasses to receive attendance credit.

Attendance and tardiness for studio classes and required recitals is recorded using the Roll Call tool in Canvas, and students can check this grade online. **If you arrive more than five minutes late, you will be counted as absent.**

Studio classes are held **twice** weekly, and attendance is required for all viola majors. Activities may include viola ensemble, scale class, technique class, orchestral excerpts, viola masterclass, student performance class, or area recital. Scale exams and/or mock auditions may be scheduled during studio class and graded in this category.

Performances in studio class are required of all repertoire. 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. Memorization is required for solo Bach and preferred for concerti.

### 3. Jury Performance (25%)

You will be graded and critiqued by the string faculty at the end of each 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. Concerti and solo Bach should be memorized. Once a work has been performed for a jury, it may not 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, if you do not memorize your Bach, 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 are unable to take the jury, you may opt to receive an Incomplete for the semester; a jury will be held as early as possible in the succeeding semester, and the Incomplete removed. Juries are typically held on the Saturday after reading days. Students are exempt from this requirement in any semester where they perform a solo recital.

All grades will be determined based on the following scale:

A: 94-100% A-: 90-93% B+: 87-89% B: 84-86%

B-: 80-83% C+: 77-79% C: 74-76% C-: 70-73%

D+: 67-69% D: 64-66% D-: 60-63% E: 0-59

### Online Issues

For resolving technical issues (e.g. [visit the helpdesk website](#) or call 352-392-4357).

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate

exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

**Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and eat outside of the classroom.

**Dress Code: Performance Attire**

A performance serves as an event for students to share their music, to hone their performance skills, and to hear peers, music faculty, and guest artists. A performance dress code is implemented so that the enjoyment of the musical experience is not diminished by distractions from inappropriate attire. Students are advised that proper modest and dignified attire is required when performing in school of music events including student recitals and degree recitals.

1. Absolutely no:
  - a. hats
  - b. flip-flops or sneakers
  - c. t-shirts
  - d. jeans or shorts
  - e. skirts above the knee
  - f. strapless or spaghetti-strap tops
2. Recommended attire for men: slacks, button-up collared shirt, dress shoes with socks. (Tie and/or jacket optional)
3. Recommended attire for women: dress or skirt/slacks and top, no high-heels higher than 2 inches. Dresses/skirts should be knee-length or below.

Any exception to this dress code must be approved by the student's applied professor or the ensemble director.

Consequences for failing to meet the dress code are at the discretion of the applied professor or ensemble director and may include a lowered grade or the cancellation of the student's performance.

**Technical Support**

Please contact the helpdesk to resolve technical difficulties with Canvas: [helpdesk.ufl.edu](https://helpdesk.ufl.edu), 352-392-4357

[Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here.](#)