

Syllabus – Spring 2026

MVS 4443 - Cello Performance (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas

Contact: 273-3169 - cellist@ufl.edu/Office hours: by appointment

Class schedule: 1 hour private lesson - TBA (Room 127); Studio Class - Tuesday 6th period (Room 121)

1. Prerequisites for all cello study

Students must pass an audition before at least three members of the string faculty. Auditions may audition during one of the regularly scheduled School of Music audition days or must arrange an audition before the end of the ADD session at the beginning of the semester in which they wish to enroll. Auditionees must prepare two contrasting pieces or movements representing different musical styles, and sight-reading will be given. Students who are neither music majors nor minors will only be accepted if space is available in the studio.

All students accepted for cello study must register and play in the University Symphony Orchestra or other approved ensemble.

2. Prerequisites for MVS 4443

Students will be admitted into MVS 4443 upon successful presentation of the Junior Recital required for MVS 3433, and be passed by all members of their Faculty committee. MVS 4443 is required for students seeking the BM in Performance and the Performer's Certificate.

3. Objectives

Readiness for pursuit of a career in music and/or achievement of standards required for admission to a significant graduate program. Confidence and consistency in these areas must be demonstrated at a final end-of-semester promotional jury to be performed to members of the School of Music Faculty, unless a senior recital is during the semester.

Final: a 15-minute performance which can include mid-term piece – 4/28/2026 (time TBA)

4. Course Content

Students continue to develop advanced technique, etudes are more advanced and repertoire is expanded. Performance experience increases beyond that of MVS 3433. A senior recital, given in the 2nd semester of MVS 4443, consists of no less than 45 minutes of music of contrasting styles, and including a Bach Suite performed from memory (unless a complete suite was performed in the Junior Recital). Program notes are to be written by the student performing a senior recital. An end-of-semester jury before string faculty members is required for the semester in which no recital is given.

Repertoire for the course will be determined largely by the individual student's needs, and is likely to include:

- a) Etudes: 7 Popper Etudes ("High School")
- b) Bach: Suite No. 3, 4, 5 or 6
- c) A complete concerto (memorized)
- d) A complete sonata

•Additionally, students are required to attend and participate in a weekly studio class, performing three times during each semester and making three one-minute verbal "performance introductions" of a work to be performed

GRADING

Semester grades are assigned according to the following elements:

- 1) Attendance (20%)
- 2) Weekly performance in cello lessons (35%)
- 3) Mid-term presentation grade (15%)
- 4) Final jury grade (30%)

Weekly progress may be discussed at weekly lessons and will be made available in writing upon request.

CELLO STUDIO POLICIES

1. Attendance

- (a) Students are expected to attend weekly lessons as scheduled. The schedule will be posted on the studio door.
- (b) Requests for excused absences must be made by e-mail as soon as the necessity for absence is known, and at least 3 days prior to the requested date. This includes absences for ALL religious observances (note: you must be a practicing member of the religion for which you are requesting an absence).
- (c) The legitimacy of excused absence requests will be determined solely by the Instructor.
- (d) No-shows will result in automatic lowering of a student's grade, unless the no-show is caused by medical emergency requiring an immediate visit to a medical facility or by a catastrophic personal event.

2. Punctuality

Students must be ready to begin their lessons at the scheduled time. Following the first instance of lateness each semester, which does not carry a penalty, any subsequent occurrence from 5 to 15 minutes will be counted as ½ a no-show. Lateness of more than 15 minutes will be considered a no-show. Excuses for and consequences of lateness follow the guidelines of 1(d) above.

3. Demeanor, dress code, etc

- (a) Students are expected to dress appropriately for all cello lessons and studio classes. Tank tops and mini-skirts are not permitted. Knee-length (or longer) clothing is recommended.
- (b) Cell phones must be turned off prior to entering the classroom.
- (c) Gum chewing is not permitted during any performance related activity, including orchestra and chamber music

4. Studio class

Attendance at weekly studio classes is mandatory. Students are expected to perform at least twice each semester during studio class.

5. School of Music cello-related events

Students are required to attend all cello recitals by fellow students enrolled in the cello studio, faculty or visiting artists, cello masterclasses, string chamber music masterclasses and other

cello-related events. All events under this rule will be announced by e-mail by the instructor and posted on the studio door. 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.

6. Communication

The primary form of communication outside the studio and classroom is e-mail. Students must check their UF e-mail address every day and have a 24-hour window to respond. Text messaging should be used for urgent messages. Calls to the instructor's cell phone should only be made when necessary and urgent.

7. Course materials

- (a) Students are expected to purchase printed sheet music as required and recommended by the Instructor. Exact materials are determined by each individual student's semester assignment. Xeroxed copies are not permitted if in violation of copyright law. The total average annual cost of required sheet music should not exceed \$100.
- (b) Recordings used for research and study must also be obtained in compliance with copyright laws.

8. General

The cello studio adheres to all university-wide policies which may be accessed following this link: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>