Course Description

This course provides the student with the necessary instruction to acquire the skill to play in a small string ensemble. It will also provide general knowledge about the culture of bowed string instruments. This may include discussions on the history of the different members of the family and important performers of string instruments in general. History of Music will be taught using the repertoire being performed.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a sense of what it means to play in small string groups such as duets, trios, and string quartets.
2. To gain knowledge of chamber music string literature through class participation, as well as performing your respective instrument. A piece or pieces from the standard repertoire will be chosen at the beginning of the semester at the discretion of the instructor.
3. To perform in public one or more of the pieces learned in class.
4. To develop a keen sense of rhythm, intonation, and quality of sound through the practice of chamber music.

Course Materials

1. The student should have a good instrument and keep it well maintained and adjusted. If I determine that your instrument needs repairs, you must repair it or find a replacement as soon as possible. Failure to do this may affect your final grade.
2. I will provide the repertoire that will be used throughout the semester. Make sure to bring your music to assigned coachings, rehearsals, and performances. Failure to do so will affect your grade in a negative manner.
3. Students should have proper concert attire for performances. In less formal occasions the instructor and students can come to an agreement about a different concert wear.

Ensemble Policies

Chamber music ensembles have many different conformations. As a specialist in the field, I reserve the right to approve a certain combination of instruments or performers if I consider that such group or distribution of performers in the ensemble will not accomplish the class objectives. Students have to be respectful with each other and learn how to work as a team. If a difficult situation arises between people in an ensemble, discuss it with me immediately. We will find a solution that will allow the accomplishment of the class objectives.

Grading

Attendance is mandatory. Rehearsals and coachings will be monitored by the instructor. You have to come to the lessons prepared individually and as a group. I will grade each lesson individually and as a group. Ensemble preparation will get a grade and individual preparation will have a separate grade. The average of the two will be your final grade. If individual lack of preparation affects the assigned public performance of the ensemble, the student responsible will have a lower grade than the other members of the group. If the ensemble is not ready to perform in public in the estimate time set by the instructor, everybody’s grade will be lowered.

Notice to Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.
Grade Appeal Process

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.