String Techniques
MUSI-3189-001
Summer Session One 2015
CA 127  MTWR 02:00-03:20PM
Dr. Carrie Pierce
Mon-Thursday 2-4 pm

Instructor: Dr. Carrie Pierce
Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 1-2
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Required Materials

Text Books


Instruments

Students will be provided with the string instruments needed for the course. Each student will be responsible for any damage, or theft. If the student does not repair or replace the instrument by the last day of class, the instructor will give the student a failing grade for the course.

Course Description

The course will focus on pedagogical and logistic needs for the instrumental music teacher in the public schools. Students will experience the instruments of the bowed string family by playing each one of them for a portion of the course session. Discussion on group class pedagogy including the Suzuki Method, rehearsal techniques, and classroom management.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- Perform three major scales in one octave on each string instrument.
- Perform level 1 to level 2 literature displaying appropriate and correct technique on the violin, viola, cello, and double bass. This includes:
  1. Bow Hold
  2. Instrument Hold and Posture
3. Basic Bow Technique
4. Basic Left Hand Technique

- Demonstrate knowledge of note reading in each of the instruments of the string family.
- Demonstrate knowledge of instrument care and maintenance, construction features of the bowed string family, specifications for ordering string instruments, and sources for purchasing these instruments.
- Design a lesson plan that applies to several string specific techniques
- Evaluate and analyze problems in beginner student posture and approach to each instrument and be able to creatively solve these problems

**Expectation and Grading**

Each student will be tested on Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. In addition, the student will be expected to demonstrate competency teaching one of the instruments to one individual for the final examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violin or Viola</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cello/Bass</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Exam #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Exam #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Grade Scale**

A= 100-90      B= 89-80      C= 79-70      D= 69-60      F= 59-0

**Proposed Class Topic Schedule**

**June 1 – June 4: Instrument One (Violin or Viola)**

- Topics covered
  - How to hold instrument
  - Proper bow technique
  - Tricks for teaching vibrato
  - Left Hand Techniques
  - Playing Test 1: June 4

**June 8 – June 11: Instrument One (Violin or Viola)**

- Topics Covered
  - Repertoire for different levels
  - Management Techniques
- Practical Test 1

June 15 – June 18: Instrument Two (Cello or Bass)
Practical Aspects of teaching strings

- Topics Covered:
  - Instrument Repair
  - Literature for beginning strings
  - How to start a beginner class (Suzuki and Non-Suzuki)
  - Practical Exam #2

June 22-25: Instrument Two
- Topics Covered
  - Orchestra Rehearsal Techniques
  - Vibrato
  - Shifting

Final Exam:
- Performance in front of the class/pedagogy testing
- Final Exam

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in ( ).

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. ( ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Grade Appeals***

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamuvc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamuvc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Disabilities Accommodations***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with
disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.