

# SECONDARY INSTRUCTION: LOW STRINGS

MUSA 2275

**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 9:30-10:20AM**  
**FOX FINE ARTS M102**

JESUS APODACA  
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OFFICE: M339  
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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**MONDAY 7:30-9:30AM**  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

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## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Gain an intellectual and physical understanding of the double bass and the violoncello.
- Learn to produce characteristic tone on the double bass and violoncello.
- Learn methods for how to set up young students beginning to play the double bass and violoncello.
- Learn skills necessary to teach elementary through high school level double bass and violoncello students.
- Gain experience and confidence in reading and playing in the bass clef.
- Gain intellectual and physical understanding of left hand fingering systems and techniques for the double bass and violoncello.
- Be able to play and demonstrate characteristic repertoire and skills necessary for the elementary through high school level double bassist and violoncellist.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all classes is expected of all students. Excused absences will be granted for professional reasons, illness, or for school sponsored events. If you plan to be absent for any reason, including those mentioned above, please alert me as soon as possible. Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade. More than three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in the class.

## ELECTRONICS POLICY

Cell phones may be used for tuning instruments only. Cell phones are otherwise strictly prohibited. All note-taking should be done by hand and may be transferred to your electronic device outside of class. You may use computers or tablets to reference class materials, for reading/accessing music, but this may NOT be done on cell phones and should be limited to the uses specified above.

Using cell phones, computers, or tablets for anything not related to class will result in a warning followed by a lowering of your grade by 5 points (half a letter grade) per infraction.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

All required texts and music will be made available via Blackboard. Students are responsible for either printing, downloading, adding to iPads, etc. before class begins so as to not waste class time waiting for Blackboard to load, looking through files on the computer, etc. Again, a cell phone is not an acceptable form of viewing documents for the purposes of this class and will not be allowed.

## ASSIGNMENTS

There will be one short assignment due before Monday's class each week. This will usually be in the form of a video recording uploaded to Blackboard demonstrating mastery of the materials covered in class. Specific assignments will be listed each week on Blackboard.

Assignments will be due on Monday mornings by 9:00AM unless otherwise specified.

All videos must include the student's full body and instrument and be edited to begin near-immediately with the appropriate technique/exercise/etc. and end immediately after. Videos may be edited and submitted as one file or you may submit each exercise separately. Please make sure that you know how to submit files appropriately.

In the case of assignments involving creating notation, short answers, etc., (anything that is not a video), all assignments should be proofread, should have a professional appearance, and should display the student's highest caliber of work.

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## GENERAL GRADING POLICY

- A EXCEPTIONAL:** Work displays the highest caliber that could be expected from a student. It is clear and far above average. Video or audio is very high quality although not professional and time has clearly been spent on presenting as professional a product as possible. Written assignments contain all correct information/answers, are written at a very high-level, are proofread, are clear, thoughtful, and concise.
- B ABOVE AVERAGE:** Work displays above average effort. The work is on track toward near-professional but is still lacking refinement and polish. Written assignments contain correct information, but are maybe not proofread or containing small grammatical or other errors. Thoughts are intelligent but could be communicated more clearly or thoughtfully.
- C AVERAGE:** Work is sufficient and displays an understanding of the material but nothing more. Audio and video files may contain the correct information, but are blurry, too far away/close, not correct volume, not centered or mixed properly, etc. It is on time and not late. Written assignments do have mostly correct information with only a few wrong answers, but the product does not appear professional at all and includes slang, grammatical errors, was clearly not proofread, etc.
- D BELOW AVERAGE:** Work is the bare minimum required to receive credit. Some information may be incorrect but there is sufficient evidence of overall comprehension. Videos or audio may be unedited or rough, not centered or otherwise unclear/unprofessional looking or sounding. The student likely did not re-watch or listen back their own video/audio before submitting and therefore did not make any attempt to improve it. Written assignments display a general understanding of the topic but are not near professional looking, are not written at a high level, are clearly not proofread and contain many grammatical errors.
- F UNACCEPTABLE:** Work clearly does not meet the minimum standards. It is not professional in appearance and was clearly either thrown together or completed at the last minute. Works were not re-watched/listened to and edited/improved/tried again. Written assignments are either incorrect, seem not well thought-out, contain grammatical errors, are not properly or professionally formatted.
- I INCOMPLETE:** The grade of Incomplete is reserved for extreme circumstances in which the student is by no fault of their own unable to complete the semester. Up to this point, the student had been on pass to earn a high grade and had been displaying a high level of work. An Incomplete will be issued at the sole discretion of the professor under the consultation of the String Area Coordinator and the Director of the Music Department.

## UTEP PROVOST OFFICE COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org). For more information on COVID-19 visit the CDC website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)

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## CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to: [utep.edu/dos/acadintg.html](http://utep.edu/dos/acadintg.html) for further information.

## ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or e-mail them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal: [utep.edu/student-affairs/cass](http://utep.edu/student-affairs/cass)

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### AUGUST 28

#### FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Introductions, Lockers,  
Unpacking, Endpins, Etc.

### AUGUST 30

Bass cleaning, setting up tapes,  
plucking, bass clef, set-up

### SEPTEMBER 4

#### NO CLASS

Labor Day

### SEPTEMBER 6

Set-up extended, stools,  
left hand, pivots, shifting

### SEPTEMBER 11

Bow set-up, rosin, placement,  
speed, tone production

### SEPTEMBER 13

Finger Patterns 1, 2, 3, 4

### SEPTEMBER 18

Thumb position

### SEPTEMBER 20

3 Octave Scales

### SEPTEMBER 25

Alternate Fingerings  
and trouble-shooting

### SEPTEMBER 27

MS All-Region

### OCTOBER 2

HS All-Region

### OCTOBER 4

MS-HS Repertoire,  
Trouble-shooting

### OCTOBER 9

#### NO CLASS

### OCTOBER 11

Thumb Position,  
Hot Cross Buns,  
Twinkle, Can-Can

### OCTOBER 16

#### FINAL BASS TEST

All-Region Etudes,  
Scales, Finger Patterns

### OCTOBER 18

#### FINAL BASS TEST

All-Region Etudes, Scales,  
Finger Patterns

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## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### OCTOBER 23

Cello set up, chairs,  
rockstops, endpins

### OCTOBER 25

Bow hand, placement,  
rosin, bow-speed, tuning cello

### OCTOBER 30

Left hand set up,  
1-2-3-4, 1-2-4, 1-3-4,  
finger patterns, extensions

### NOVEMBER 1

Thumb Position  
thumb-1-2-3, thumb scales

### NOVEMBER 6

2 Octave, single string scales,  
“alternate” fingerings

### NOVEMBER 8

Scales, C Major 3 octaves,  
G Major 2 Octaves, D Major 2 Octaves

### NOVEMBER 13

Hot Cross Buns, Twinkle, Can-Can,  
first position and thumb position

### NOVEMBER 15

Examples from middle  
and high school literature

### NOVEMBER 20

NO CLASS

### NOVEMBER 22

NO CLASS

### NOVEMBER 27

All-Region Middle School Etudes

### NOVEMBER 29

All-Region High School Etudes

### DECEMBER 4

#### FINAL CELLO TEST

All-Region Etudes, Scales,  
Finger Patterns

### DECEMBER 6

#### FINAL CELLO TEST

All-Region Etudes, Scales,  
Finger Patterns

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