

Secondary Instruments – High Strings: MUSA 2276

University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Music -- Fall 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Assistant Professor of Violin

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PHONE: (915) 747-5607

OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room 434

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 10-11:00 am *and* by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on learning how to play the violin and viola and in gaining the ability to teach each instrument to beginning students. The first half of the semester will be devoted to violin and the second half to viola. Pre-Requisite for the course is MUST 1112 + MUST 1314, each with a grade of “C” or better. The goal of this course is to give music education majors the necessary basic skills to feel comfortable teaching and playing violin and viola in an educational setting.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Learn how to appropriately “set up” a student with good posture and balance
- ❖ Read both treble and alto clef with proficiency
- ❖ Understand the differences between the violin and viola and how to explain these differences to students
- ❖ Become familiar with basic right-hand technique, including bow hold and various strokes
- ❖ Learn left-hand technical concepts, including basic finger patterns, shifting, and vibrato
- ❖ Understand basic practice techniques for relaxed playing and good intonation

MEETING PLACE AND TIMES

Fox Fine Arts Center, Room M343

Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:20 am

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- ❖ Textbook: *Essential Elements 2000 for Strings*, both violin and viola editions (published by Hal Leonard, available at White’s Music Box – 7040 N. Mesa St., 915-833-0909)
- ❖ Instrument: Each student is required to check out a violin and viola in accordance with the specified dates in the course schedule
- ❖ Adjustable shoulder rest or kitchen sponge with rubber bands
- ❖ Notebook for lesson notes and practice techniques/exercises

***You are required to bring your instrument, textbook, and notebook to each class meeting**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken through a sign-in sheet at the beginning of class. Each student is allowed two absences without any point deduction. Every absence thereafter will incur a five-point deduction from the final grade total for the semester. For example, if you are absent four times and have a cumulative grade of 230 on playing tests, your final grade will be a 220 or a “B”.

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

In the event that a class meeting, exam, or assignment due date falls on the day of a recognized religious holiday, the student must provide written notice to the instructor of each course. This written notice should be submitted no less than ten (10) days prior to the expected date of absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR UNIVERSITY-RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES

Students representing the University in officially recognized University activities such as sporting events, band, or professional conferences must notify the Dean of Students of their upcoming absence no less than ten (10) days prior to the absence. The student is responsible for providing the professor with a letter from the Dean of Students prior to the officially recognized activity. Make-up assignments and exams will be permitted with the consultation of the faculty and provided that the student follows the proper procedures.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, hearing, etc.) who need to arrange special classroom accommodations must notify me at the beginning of the semester with a letter from the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). For greater success, students are strongly encouraged to contact CASS at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or visit the Union East Building, Room 106.

EVALUATION and GRADING POLICY

There are a total of 250 possible points for the semester. The final grade will be weighted as follows:

Test #1 – 50 points
Test #2 – 50 points
Test #3 – 50 points
Final Exam – 100 points

Grading Scale:

225-250 = A	200-224 = B	175-199 = C	150-174 = D	100-149 = F
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Make up tests will NOT be given under any circumstances. If you miss a test and have an acceptable excuse, arrangements may be made to adjust your average on an individual basis. It is strongly recommended that each student attend all classes and tests, so that good results will be achieved.

***Each student is required to check out a violin no later than Tuesday, August 28th. Please make plans to check out a violin from August 28th-October 17th. You will need to schedule an appointment to exchange the violin for a viola right after class on October 17th. You are required to attend class on Monday, October 22nd with a viola and the viola edition of *Essential Elements*. **Failure to do so will result in a 20-point deduction from your overall final exam score.** For the first part of the semester, from August 28th-October 17th, you will be expected to attend class with your violin and the violin edition of *Essential Elements*.

***Students must purchase the required textbook(s) and come to class with the required book on Wednesday, August 29th. Failure to do so will result in a 20-point grade deduction from the overall score on your final exam.