

Upper-Level Individual Instruction in Viola: MUSA 3295

Spring 2024 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Associate Professor of Violin

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in MUSA 3295 receive one 60-minute lesson each week, scheduled at a mutually convenient time between the student and the instructor. We will discuss goals, both short-term and long-term, at the beginning of the semester and address these each week. Lessons and practice routines are designed to achieve these goals.

OBJECTIVES

- Achieve further understanding and appreciation of the arts, culture, and history through musical study and performance
- Develop the necessary technical and artistic skills for musical creativity
- Gain a deeper understanding of pedagogical practices for upper string playing
- Fulfill technical and musical goals through preparation and performances

ATTENDANCE

It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the lesson regularly and on time. If a lesson must be missed, the student should contact me in advance of the lesson, preferably by text or email as listed above. Absences will only be excused in the case of a medical emergency or a conflict with a university-related activity. In both cases, a note from the health center or another instructor is required to excuse the absence. Make-up lessons will be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

STUDIO CLASS and RECITAL CLASS

Studio class attendance is MANDATORY for all music majors enrolled in lessons. This semester, we will meet every Friday from 12:30-1:30 pm in Room 102. Studio class will be a mix of the following activities: technique lessons, pedagogical lectures, and performances.

Recital Class is MANDATORY for music majors enrolled in lessons. See the policy below.

STUDIO PROJECT AND RECITAL

Our annual Studio Project and Recital will be on May 2nd. Students enrolled in applied lessons will take part in all musical activities associated with this event, including any practice recitals, group rehearsals, and dress rehearsals. Students are also required to complete all written and/or presentation components of the project. The details of the Studio Project and Recital will be outlined in a document which will be given out during the first few weeks of classes.

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PRACTICE and PREPARATION

“Practice with your fingers and you need all day. Practice with your mind and you will do as much in 1 1/2 hours.” ~ Leopold Auer

Students are required to keep a practice journal. This helps establish good practice habits and can be used to keep track of questions or problems to bring to the attention of the instructor at the next lesson. This is important for effective and concentrated practice; it keeps the student motivated to achieve goals and develop good habits.

A solid practice routine involves a combination of scales/arpeggios, technical studies and etudes, solo pieces, chamber music, and orchestral repertoire. Time should be allotted in each session for basics (scales, etudes, exercises), building/interpretation of pieces, and performance practice. Be creative in your approach to practicing.

Prepare for the weekly lesson as you would for a public performance.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on attendance, effort, and progress through any assigned studies and repertoire. Performances during the semester will be graded on tone quality, technique, musical accuracy, and interpretation.

All string majors are required to play an end-of-semester jury. Information and updates on juries will be sent to students later in the semester. **Please check the string area board outside Dr. Meyers’ office for more information and policies regarding juries.**

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

In some cases, additional assignments may be given to the student, such as researching a piece or composer, listening to recordings, or studying scores. These assignments are beneficial to your overall development as a musician and are therefore mandatory.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

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). Students are encouraged to contact the CASS Center for further information. PHONE: 747-5148, EMAIL: cass@utep.edu, LOCATION: Union East Building, Room 106.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Texas at El Paso students are expected to be honest and individual in their pursuit of truth and knowledge and will be held to the highest standards of [academic integrity](#). Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the university’s

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[policies](#) on academic infringement from the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#):

Area and Departmental Recital Attendance Policy

1. All students enrolled in Applied Lessons must attend a minimum of twelve (12) Area and Departmental recitals scheduled every Friday at 1:30 p.m., in the Department of Music. **Failing to attend twelve (12) required recitals will lower the student's final Applied Lesson grade by one letter.** Students are responsible for signing in at each recital electronically. Students arriving late, or leaving early may have their attendance voided.
2. When a single area recital is canceled, students must either attend a different area recital held at the same time or attend a makeup event (see makeup procedures, below).

Recital Makeup Procedures

1. Students may make up Area and Departmental recital absences by attending UTEP Music Department concerts and recitals. Non-university concerts such as El Paso Opera, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Wind Symphony, and El Paso Pro-Musica, as well as any other performances given by our faculty and guests, will be accepted.
2. To receive credit for UTEP Music events with *electronic programs*, the student must complete the online **recital makeup form**, available by hyperlink within the electronic program.
 - o To receive credit for events with physical *paper programs*, the student's program must be **signed at the conclusion of the event by a music faculty member in attendance.**
 - o The student must submit the signed program with their name and ID number clearly written on the front page to the Music Office (M301). The student must also **sign the makeup log.** Without this information, the student will not receive credit. There will be no exceptions.
 - o The deadline to turn in signed programs **to the Music Office is Friday of finals week at 5:00 p.m.** There will be no exceptions.
3. Students are responsible for knowing how many recitals they have or have not received credit for attending. Students may check their recital attendance by visiting the Music Office.