

Pedagogy of Instrumental Music, Graduate Level: MUSE 5397

Fall 2022 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Associate Professor of Violin

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pedagogy of Instrumental Music is a graduate-level independent study course in string pedagogy and repertoire that provides students with a broad overview of available pedagogical resources for modern string teaching and playing. Instruction focuses on the implementation of creative practice and rehearsal methods to enhance student achievement and planning effective strategies and repertoire for student success. Each topic will be addressed through independent research, reading and discussion, and the practical application of concepts and exercises.

CLASS MEETINGS

Much of this course will be completed through independent study. Class meetings will occur on Thursday (12:30-1:30 pm) and will be devoted to discussion of the assigned material, pedagogical demonstrations, and guiding students through the assigned projects. Students are encouraged to schedule appointments as needed throughout the semester.

OBJECTIVES

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

- Implement effective pedagogical strategies with their students and choose appropriate technical exercises and repertoire for students of all levels
- Develop a thorough knowledge of available pedagogical resources for modern string playing and teaching
- Supplement orchestral study with pedagogical exercises, scales, and etudes to build technique for individual students
- Select appropriate repertoire for performances and engage audiences through effective musical programming

REQUIRED LITERATURE and REPERTOIRE

There are no required texts for the course. Students are highly encouraged to expand their personal musical library by purchasing print or digital versions of the pedagogical texts discussed in class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Assignments will be submitted directly through email or by using UTEP's OneDrive service. Students will need access to a computer/tablet with internet as well as a high-quality microphone and webcam. A smart phone video recorder will suffice for making recordings, so long as the camera is resting on a tripod or still during filming. When making videos for assignments, please frame the camera accordingly and use a well-lit, neutral background.

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EVALUATION

Assignment #1 – Holistic Approaches to Practice and Pedagogy (Due - Sunday, 9/25)
Assignment #2 – Repertoire Selection and Concert Programming (Due - Sunday, 10/16)
Assignment #3 – Upper-String Pedagogy, Teaching Methods (Due - Sunday, 11/13)
Assignment #4 – Analytical Exercises and Teaching Observations (Due - Sunday, 12/4)

Each of the four major assignments will count for 25% of your final grade. Assignment specific details will be sent to students 2-3 weeks before the date they are to be completed. Work will be evaluated, and students will be provided written feedback by the instructor as well as verbal feedback during class meetings.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A	80-89 = B	70-79 = C	60-69 = D	0-59 = F
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MAKE-UP WORK and LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Make-up work will only be given in the case of a documentable emergency. Make-up work may be given in a different format and/or graded with penalty points. Reach out to me, in advance when possible, and explain with the proper documentation why you missed a certain assignment. Once the parameters for a make-up assignment have been set, no further extensions will be granted.

You are highly encouraged to submit your work early to help avoid technical difficulties that sometimes arise with last-minute submissions. If you are having trouble submitting an assignment, contact me as soon as possible by email. If you experience technical difficulties that are beyond your troubleshooting abilities, please contact the [UTEP Help Desk](#).

COURSE-DROP and INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICIES

The instructor will not initiate a course-drop in the event of excessive absence and lack of completed work. If you feel you are unable to complete the requirements of the course – including attendance and assignments – or have accumulated enough missed work that it will create a detrimental effect on your grade, please let me know as soon as possible and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the course-drop process. If you do not take these steps, you will be at risk of receiving an "F" for the semester.

Incomplete grades may be requested if you have completed at least half of the course requirements and extenuating circumstances will hinder your ability to complete the remainder of the course before the conclusion of the semester. Speak with me as soon as possible if you feel this is warranted. If you are granted an incomplete for the semester, I will establish a list of assignments to be completed with concrete deadlines.

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ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

If a class meeting, exam, or assignment falls on the day of a recognized religious holy day, the student must provide written notice to the instructor. This written notice should be submitted no less than ten days prior to the expected date of absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR UNIVERSITY-RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES

Students representing UTEP 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 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 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](#). Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the university's [policies](#) on academic infringement from the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#).

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

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, 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.