Pedagogy of Instrumental Music - MUSE 5397 – Fall 2021 Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pedagogy of Instrumental Music is a graduate-level independent study course in string pedagogy and repertoire. Instruction focuses on the implementation of creative practice and rehearsal methods to enhance student achievement, planning effective strategies for orchestral student recruitment and retention, and exploring creative ideas for student success. In addition, the course will touch on bowing techniques, shifting strategies, vibrato, and tone production.

CLASS MEETINGS

This course consists of seven synchronous online class meetings spread throughout our 14-week semester. Class meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings with the exception of our final meeting on Wednesday, November 30th. We will meet from 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm Mountain Standard Time on ZOOM. Zoom Code: 243 601 7424 / Password: 54321

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24th</td>
<td>Course Introduction / Warm ups for Orchestra Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7th</td>
<td>Vibrato / Tone Production / Orchestral Posture</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28th</td>
<td>Shifting / Bow Strokes and Articulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5th</td>
<td>Rehearsal Techniques / Practice Methods</td>
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<td>October 26th</td>
<td>Assigning Technique Building Material for Orchestra Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9th</td>
<td>General Topic Q&amp;A / Concert Preparation / Participation in Regional Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30th (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Building a Program / Retaining and Recruiting Students / Student Motivation</td>
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Create efficient and effective orchestral warm-up and rehearsal routines
- Implement useful practice methods for developing technique in orchestral string students of varying ages
- Assign interesting and appropriate orchestral repertoire that builds technique and enriches student musical interest
- Supplement orchestral study with pedagogical exercises, scales, and etudes to build technique for all instruments
- Bring about creative ideas for concerts and outside activities with students
- Confidently recruit and retain students in their orchestral program

BLACKBOARD and TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

There are no textbook requirements for the course. You are highly encouraged to expand your personal library by purchasing copies of the pedagogical texts discussed in class.

Assignments will be submitted online through the Pedagogy of Instrumental Music course module in Blackboard. Students will need access to a computer/tablet with internet as well as a high-quality microphone and webcam. A smartphone 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.

COMMUNICATION

- **Email** - If you have an urgent question or need immediate assistance please email (copy) both instructors through your designated UTEP email address. We will make every effort to respond to your email within 24 hours.
- **Announcements** - Check Blackboard regularly for announcements, updates, and important information about the class. These announcements go directly to your email when you are enrolled in the course.
- **Discussion Board** - If you have a question about an assignment that you feel others would benefit from viewing, please use the Discussion Board for this
purpose. If you have a solution or a comment for your peers, please contribute that to the discussion.

**COURSE PARTICIPATION**

Your participation in synchronous online class activities is important for your own learning success and to enhance the building of your skills within a community of your peers. Graduate study benefits greatly by the active participation of all students in seminar discussions and online activities.

Please be on time to each class. Your punctuality and participation in each class session is critical for success in this class. If you miss two or more synchronous classes, you will receive a deduction on your final grade.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING**

Each of the five major assignments will count for 20% of your final grade. Assignment specific details will be sent to students 1-2 weeks before the date they are to be completed. Work will be evaluated by both instructors and students will be provided written feedback by both instructors as well as verbal feedback during class meetings.

Grading Scale:  

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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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 us, 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.

We highly encourage you 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 us 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 instructors 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 us 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 us as soon as possible if you feel this is warranted. If you are granted an incomplete for the semester, we will establish a list of assignments to be completed with concrete deadlines.

**ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS**

In the event that a class meeting, exam, or assignment falls on the day of a recognized religious holy day, the student must provide written notice to the instructors. 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 will disabilities (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, hearing, etc.) who need to arrange special classroom accommodations must notify us 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: 915-747-5148, EMAIL: cass@utep.edu, LOCATION: Union East Building, Room 106

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All UTEP 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. All suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the university’s policies on academic infringement from the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

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 us 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.

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