

Upper-Level Individual Instruction in Violin: MUSA 3295

Spring 2021 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Assistant 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.

Applied lessons will take place in person this semester in my office, M434. We will abide by all university guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Both teacher and student will maintain social distancing and wear a mask throughout the lesson. Students will be required to bring their own pencil and music stand. Please refer to the UTEP Music Department's Safety Plan and FAQ document for further information: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/music/faq/index.html>.

If you are unsure about returning to campus in person in the spring due to health concerns we can arrange for weekly virtual lessons. If this applies to you, please speak to me individually as soon as possible. Those choosing to take virtual lessons will do so for the whole semester. It will not be decided on a week by week basis.

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 has to be missed, the student should contact me in advance of the lesson, preferably by cell phone (call or 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.

ONLINE STUDIO CLASS

Studio class attendance is **MANDATORY** for all music majors enrolled in lessons. This semester, we will meet virtually over BlackBoard/Zoom every Friday from 3:00-4:00 pm. Studio class will be a mix of the following activities: technique lessons, pedagogical lectures, and student performances.

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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!

STUDIO PROJECT AND RECITAL

Students enrolled in applied lessons will take part in all activities associated with the annual Studio Project and Recital. These include performances, practice recitals, group rehearsals, dress rehearsals, as well as all written and research components of the project. The details of the studio project and recital will be outlined in a PDF document which will be given out during the first week of classes.

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 spring. **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.

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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.

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 policies on academic infringement from the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution:

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/student-conduct/student-conduct-process-appendix/>

RECITAL CLASS

Students enrolled in applied lessons must also attend weekly recital class (see the requirements in the policy below). This class will be run differently during the spring semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will meet in person from 1:30-2:15 and alternate rooms each week.

COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

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For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

AREA AND DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. All students enrolled in Applied Lessons must attend a minimum of twelve (12) Area and Departmental recitals, which take place every Friday at 1:30 pm in the Department of Music. **Failing to attend twelve (12) required recitals will result in lowering Applied Lessons' final grade by one letter.**
2. Make up absences are accomplished by attending UTEP Music Department concerts and recitals. Non-University recitals such as El Paso Music Forum, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Wind Symphony, and Pro-Musica as well as any other performances given by our faculty and guests will be accepted.
3. To receive credit for the make-up, a student must attend a music event. A music faculty member who attended the same event must sign the program. The program must be brought to the Music Office to record the attendance. Student name and ID# must be on the program. Without this information students will not receive credit.
4. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the signed programs to the main office by **5 pm on Thursday during Finals week.** There will be no exceptions.
5. Students must sign the makeup sheet every time they turn in a program. At the end, the office must have both, the program with the student's information and their signature matching the date. There will be no exceptions.

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6. Please notice: When a single area recital is cancelled, students will need to replace the cancelled recital by either going to a different area recital held at the same time or turning in a makeup recital.
7. At the end of the semester, all students will have the same number of expected recitals.

Fox Fine Arts Music Building Traffic Flow Chart. (Same flow chart for all four levels)

