Non-Major Individual Instruction in Violin: MUSA 1285
Spring 2022 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Associate Professor of Violin
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in MUSA 1285 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 has to be missed, the student should contact me in advance, 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 on Friday afternoons from 2:45-3:45 in room M101. If Recital Class runs a little longer than 2:45, we will begin shortly after its conclusion. Studio class will be a mix of the following activities: technique lessons, pedagogical lectures, student performances, and rehearsals for our Studio Project and Recital.

STUDIO PROJECT AND RECITAL

Our annual studio project and recital will be on May 4th. Students enrolled in private 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 PDF 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 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.

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: 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 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.

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