

Upper-Level Individual Instruction in Violin/Viola: MUSA 3295

Spring 2016 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Assistant Professor of Violin

EMAIL: sbnordstrom@utep.edu

PHONE: (940) 597-6035 cell or (915) 747-5607 office

OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room M434

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in upper-level lessons receive a 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

- Understanding and appreciation of the arts, culture, and history through musical study and performance
- Development of technical and artistic skills and musical creativity
- Learn to practice efficiently and fulfill musical and technical 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.

Studio class and scale group attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in lessons. Scale groups will meet on a weekly basis for between 30 and 60 minutes. In these sessions students will play scales, arpeggios, double stops, and etudes for each other and receive comments from the other members of the group. Studio classes will be scheduled throughout the semester on Friday afternoons. These will be announced by email.

Faculty and student recitals occur throughout the semester. Your attendance at these events is highly encouraged. Check the event calendar regularly and support your peers!

PRACTICE

“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

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Students are required to keep a practice journal, which 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 an important part of effective and concentrated practice; it keeps the student motivated to achieve goals and develop good habits.

A solid practice routine involves some combination of scales and 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!

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 mandatory assignments are given on an individual basis during the weekly lesson or through email.

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/>

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on attendance, effort, improvement, and progress through the assigned repertoire. Performances and/or recitals throughout the semester will be judged on tone quality, technique, musical accuracy, and interpretation.

*****A higher level of preparation and performance is expected of students enrolled in upper-level lessons.**