

MUSA 2276: Secondary Instruments-High Strings Class Syllabus Fall 2021

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Class Location: FOXM Room 102
Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Meyers
Office: FOXM Room 237
E-mail: smeyers@utep.edu
Office Phone: (915) 747-7810
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 – 9:30 AM and by appointment

Textbook: *Essential Elements 2000 for Strings*, viola edition (available at White's Music Box - 7040 North Mesa Street - (915) 833-0909 - published by Hal Leonard); one shoulder rest or soft kitchen sponge and plastic bands (for shoulder rest). Dr. Meyers will also provide copies of all music and studies for the semester.

Instrument: Each student is required to check out a viola according to the specific dates in this syllabus. You will be responsible for returning the viola after the final exam.

Other Material: You are required to bring a notebook, the assigned music, and the appropriate instrument to each class meeting. Failure to do so will result in a point deduction.

Pre-Requisite: MUST 1112+MUST 1314 each with a grade of "C" or better.

Attendance Policy: Your presence at each class is assumed. Each student is responsible for materials presented in class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Each tardy will be considered 1/2 an absence. You are allowed to be absent twice during the semester without any point deduction. In addition, there will never be a penalty for notifying me in advance of class that you are sick, and cannot attend for that reason. Failure to attend the final exam will result in failing the class.

Course Description: This class will focus on learning how to play viola. Each student will acquire a basic understanding of how to play and teach viola. Students will learn how to shift into different positions and master bow strokes and slurs, while becoming very familiar with playing in alto cleff.

Course Goal: To allow each student to learn the basic skills necessary in order to feel reasonably comfortable playing and teaching both viola in an educational setting.

Course Objectives:

Each student will...

- Learn how to read the viola cleff and play music composed for viola
- Learn how to appropriately 'set up' a student with good posture, good balance, and a clear idea of how to approach upper strings, with an emphasis on viola
- Learn the differences between violin and viola and discover how to address these issues with students
- Become familiar with fundamental bow hand placement and right-hand strengthening techniques, as well as excellent left-hand frame
- Learn left hand concepts including finger patterns, basic shifting, and note reading skills
- Learn intonation exercises and placement of left hand on fingerboard as well as some guidelines for relaxed, healthy playing
- Learn how to teach and demonstrate basic vibrato on viola, utilizing a vibrato exercise assigned by the instructor

Practice Requirement: Each student is expected to practice for 20-30 minutes each day to prepare for class/tests and practice exercises assigned by the instructor.

The class will focus on tone production, bowing techniques, shifting from first to third and then alternate positions, and learning how to fluently read alto cleff.

Grading Policy: Total of 300 possible points

<u>Test #1</u>	<u>100 points</u>
<u>Test #2</u>	<u>100 points</u>
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>

Grade Scale:

270 - 300 = A

240 - 270 = B

210 - 240 = C

180 - 210 = D

150 - 200 = F

Make-up testes will NOT be given under any circumstances. If you miss a test and have an acceptable excuse, arrangements may be made to adjust your average on an individual basis. I recommend that each student attend all classes and not miss any of the tests, so that he/she will achieve good results.

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 leger 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 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 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 covidacBon@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.