

## MUS 6905 – DMA Workshop

"Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Working in Academia but Were Afraid to Ask"  
(or "Why Am I Getting a DMA Anyway?")

Class # 15336  
MUB 142  
Period 9-11 (4:05-7:05 PM) R  
Fall 2024

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### Course Description

As the title indicates, this course is designed for DMA students in the early phases of their degree, although MM students are welcome to enroll. Working collaboratively, we will address some of the key issues, challenges, and anxieties that are often encountered during and after graduate studies in applied music.

### Objectives

Drawing upon the experiences of a wide range of guests from UF and beyond, as well as those of the students in the course, and individual reflection, we will:

- Clarify and refine goals for graduate study.
- Consider opportunities to expand skill set for greater employability, both inside and outside of academia.
- Address the soft skills essential for success that are often not directly addressed in coursework.
- Work to develop strategies to articulate and market each student's unique profile.

### Outcomes

This course advances student achievement of the following program student learning outcomes (SLOs):

2. Synthesize and apply knowledge from the major area of emphasis, as well as
5. Develop ethical behaviors, cultural sensitivity, teamwork skills, collegiality, and communication skills relevant to working in the music

### Course Requirements

Since this course is a discussion-oriented seminar, there will not be any tests or exams. Instead, students will be evaluated on their participation, both during class meetings and in online discussions. The latter will be posted on the course Canvas site in E-Learning, as will select readings, video and audio excerpts relevant to the discussions.

Throughout the course, students will keep shared journals in the Canvas site that include reflections on the topics covered, personal strategies for implementing these ideas during their DMA program, and presenting their skills effectively at each stage of their career.

## Grading

The grades for this course will be based on a 100-point system, in the following manner:

**40 points** = participation. Because there are no objective tests, active engagement with the in-class material – presentations and interviews with guests, collaborative discussions, etc. – is essential to the success of the course. Students will have opportunities to lead discussions and/or interview guests.

**30 points** = each student will keep an online journal that incorporates reflections on the material covered in class and ideas for incorporating them into their DMA studies and subsequent career(s).

**30 points** = a 15-20 minute presentation to the class on PowerPoint (or similar) show and document to be submitted at the time of presentation.

All grades will be determined based on the following scale (corresponding grade points are listed in parentheses, consistent with the university grading regulations outlined at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>):

92-100 points = A (4.00)	80-81 points = B- (2.67)	68-69 points = D+ (1.33)
90-91 points = A- (3.67)	78-79 points = C+ (2.33)	62-67 points = D (1.00)
88-89 points = B+ (3.33)	72-77 points = C (2.00)	60-61 points = D- (0.67)
82-87 points = B (3.00)	70-71 points = C- (1.67)	0-59 points = E (0)

PLEASE NOTE: If you perceive a grading error, you must address the issue within 72 hours of the grade posting, otherwise the grade is final and will not be discussed further. Specific grade questions and concerns will only be discussed with the student. Due to the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot and will not discuss your progress or grades with your parents. For more information on FERPA, please visit <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>. Any correspondence received from your parents/guardians will be responded to with a link to the FERPA information site and nothing more.

## Important Dates

The following dates are likely to change depending on the availability and expertise of guests, the interests of students, and circumstances beyond our control. Changes will be posted in the course Canvas website.

Module	Dates	Subjects
A Single Step	August 22 & 29	Introductions, Guidelines for Communication, Setting the Stage, Hopes & Fears,
Plotting the Journey	September 5, 12, 19, 26, & October 3	The How, What, & Why of Cognates, Secondary Skills, Modalities
On the Job	October 10, 17, 24, & 31	Service, Research, Bureaucracy, Promotion, Facilities, Colleagues, Professionalism, When Things Go Wrong
Spinning, Selling, & Storytelling	November 7, 14, & 21	The Whole You, Applying & Interviewing, Red & Pink Flags, If All Else Fails

### **Conduct**

Students are expected to show respect for one another and for the instructor in all communication. This doesn't mean that we can't disagree or debate, only that we handle such disagreements with courtesy and that we allow each party to present their position without interruption.

One piece of respectful communication is that mobile devices must be turned off during classes to prevent interruption and distraction.

### **Attendance**

Consistent and punctual attendance in every class is expected. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and stay for the full class period unless specific arrangements are made with the instructor prior to the class meeting.

Students are responsible for all assigned work, announcements made in class, and any material covered in class regardless of attendance or punctuality. Chronic absence and/or tardiness will be noted and can adversely affect the student's discussion/participation grade.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Assignments**

Most assignments will be submitted online through the course website. Only in exceptional circumstances will it be possible to submit assignments after the closing deadline. In the event that late assignments are accepted/permitted, there will be a substantial grade penalty assessed. Please note that technical difficulties do arise, and will generally not be considered an excuse to miss a deadline (especially without documentation from the UF Computing Helpdesk) – it is in your best interest to

complete your assignments early so that you have time to work through any unforeseeable problems. You are advised to read through the technical information posted on the LSS website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) to minimize any potential technical issues.

For conflicts that may arise due to University-sponsored events or religious holidays, you are advised to plan your work in advance. The instructor recognizes and will comply with the University's attendance policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>); however, since no assignment requires that you log on the day of the deadline, you are responsible for planning ahead and taking care of work before a trip or holiday (including university holidays such as Homecoming). If a conflict seems unavoidable, you must contact the instructor at least one week prior to the date in question.

The instructor reserves the right to amend any portion of the course structure, including items listed on the *Due Dates*.

### **Special Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Technical Issues**

Issues with the Canvas site, such as accessing media, submitting assignments, etc., should be addressed to: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>.

### **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing

this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> ) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care:*

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:*

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police

Department:392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

*Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

*University Police Department*, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

### Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support*, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://ls.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

*Career Connections Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

*Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio*, 2215 Turlington Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>