

MUE 2440 Strings Skills I
University of Florida
School of Music

Fall 2024
T / R 7:25 – 8:15 (Period 1)
On campus: Music Building, 121

Instructor: Dr. Jamie Burg
Email: jburg@pky.ufl.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only

Please contact the professor through Canvas or UF email listed above. The professor will make every attempt to respond to your email within 2 business days. If you are having technical difficulties, you can visit the [helpdesk website](#) or call 352-392-4357.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help pre-service music educators develop foundational strings performance and teaching skills. Students will develop skills, knowledge, and techniques needed to both play and teach stringed instruments.

Course Objectives

Through full participation in this course, students should be able to achieve the following objectives:

- Develop an understanding of proper fundamental performance skills on violin and/or viola.
- Develop appropriate pedagogical approaches to teaching posture, left-hand technique, bow hold, beginning to intermediate bow technique, and common error fixes for beginning strings techniques.
- Demonstrate an understanding of first position, third position, basic shifting, basic bow strokes, and beginning repertoire for string orchestra.
- Reflect on their experiences both performing and teaching in order to improve pedagogical and performance skills.

Required Textbook- Additional Required readings will be provided

1. Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 (teacher edition)

- Essential Elements for Strings Book 2 (violin, viola, or teacher edition) **wait to purchase**

Recommend Books- Stings majors should consider these purchases:

Hamann, D. L. & Gillespie, R. (2018). *Strategies for teaching strings: Building a successful string and orchestra program* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Selby, C. R. (2017). *Habits of a successful orchestra director*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications.

Recommended books- Students with a band background should consider this book:

Benham, S.(2018). *Yes, you can!; Survival guide for teaching strings*. NewYork, NY: Carl Fischer LLC.

Assignments

All assignments are due Monday at midnight, unless otherwise noted.

Late assignments will not be accepted unless approved by the instructor in emergency situations.

Assignment	Points per Assignment	Total Points
Weekly Playing Checkpoints (13)	20	260
Informal Teaching (3 total) Lesson plan (40 points) Recorded video (10 points) Reflection (30 points)	60	180
Fingering Charts (2)	20	40
Live Playing Checks (2)	150	300
		780

Weekly Playing Checkpoints

These assignments are recorded videos of you demonstrating the new skills learned during the week. With each submission students will include a short reflection 3-5 sentences. They will be recorded and submitted through Canvas. There will be one assignment per week with some small exceptions.

Live Playing Checks

Students will make appointments to complete a brief playing test to demonstrate performance skills. These appointments will be individual appointments during the midterms and during the last week of classes.

Informal Teachings

Students will demonstrate both teaching and assessing another person's skills by planning skills to teach, teaching those skills, submitting a video of the mastered skill/skills, and writing a reflection of the teaching process. More instructions and specific goals for each of the informal teaching episodes can be found in Canvas. The informal teaching assignments will require you to submit a lesson plan, video, and reflection. The entire project will be due on the date listed in on Canvas. All parts of the project must be submitted to receive credit for any part of the assignment.

Fingering Charts

Students will create fingering charts for notes in I and III positions on all strings for both the violin and viola. This can either be done 'by hand' or electronically. This assignment will be submitted in Canvas.

Week of:	Weekly Focus	Assignments
8/21	Getting Started: Tuning, pizzicato, by ear	Checkpoint #1
8/26	Left hand focus	Checkpoint # 2
9/2	Right hand focus	Checkpoint # 3
9/9	Combining both hands	Checkpoint # 4 Lesson plan #1
9/16	Developing bow control (speed/weight)	Checkpoint # 5 Teaching Demo #1
9/23	G string & slurs	Checkpoint # 6
9/30	Tetra chords F/ F# & C/C#	Checkpoint # 7 Fingering charts
10/7	Removing 2 nd & 4 th finger tapes	Checkpoint # 8 Lesson plan #2
10/14	Advanced bowing techniques: detache, staccato hooked	Checkpoint #9 Teaching Demo #2
10/21	EE book 2	Checkpoint # 10 Playing test- Midterm
10/28	Tetra chords in 3 rd position Advanced bowing- 3:1	Checkpoint # 11 3 rd position fingering charts
11/4	Vibrato Finger patterns	Checkpoint # 12 Lesson plan #3
11/11	Double stops Vibrato Solo piece introduction- final	Checkpoint # 13 Teaching Demo #3
11/18	Demos Bowing: Sautille, spiccato, staccatissimo, tremolo, sul taso, ponticello, col legno, Jete (Rigochet)	Checkpoint # 14
11/25	Review	

Thanksgiving		
12/2	Final playing tests- LIVE	Final playing test

Late Work

Late work generally will not be accepted. If a student needs an extension on an assignment, this must be communicated ASAP, preferably PRIOR to the deadline. Accommodations, modifications, and extensions will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance

Attendance at all course meetings is expected and required as a part of your enrollment in this class. Active participation in class activities is critical to the achievement of the learning objectives for this course, and many class activities cannot be effectively replicated for make-up work outside of class interactions. In addition, attendance at professional commitments (such as class meetings) is a critical dispositional skill for music teachers.

Absences for reasons recognized by the University of Florida are always excused with proper documentation. The University of Florida attendance policy which can be found here. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. Documentation must be provided to the instructor no later than two weeks after the student returns to class. This includes absences for illness. Note: A Verification of Visit form from the Student Health Care Center is not considered a medical excuse note. See the SHCC's policy on excuse notes [here](#).

- o All students can be excused for two (2) absences per semester. This includes university sponsored events, religious holiday, and personal illness.
- o Each absence beyond the (2) limit will incur a 5% deduction from the final course grade. If a student requires more than the 2 class excused absences, a special request can be made with the professor through email. All requests must be documented in email.
- If a student is more than 10 minutes late to a class meeting without a documented and approved reason, they will be considered tardy. Three tardies will result in a 5% deduction from the final course grade.
- Students are responsible for maintaining an awareness of how many times they have been absent and whether those absences have been excused or unexcused.
- o Any student who is absent for more than 30% of total course meetings, must make an appointment with the professor to discuss fulfilling their course requirements. Students who must be absent from more than 30% of course meetings for medical reasons are encouraged to pursue a medical withdrawal.

Grading Scale

A standards based grading approach will be utilized. Grades on individual assignment will be reported on a scale from 0-4. See the chart below for specific details.

Mastery Grading	UF Reporting	Canvas Percentages
4 (100)	A	100-94
	A-	<94-90
	B+	<90-87
3 (85)	B	<87-84
	B-	<84-80
	C+	<80-77
2 (74)	C	<77-74
	C-	<74-70
	D+	<70-67
1 (60)	D	<67-64
	D-	<64-61
0	F	<61-

Additional information on grades and grading policies is available here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Electronic Use Policy

Laptops and tablets may be used for taking notes during class at the discretion of the instructor. Cell phones must be silenced and put away in a pocket or bag. Students found to be using electronics for purposes not related to the class (e.g., checking Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, or texting) will no longer be permitted to use their devices during class time.

Students Requesting Accommodations Due to Disabilities

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

Academic Honor Policy

Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words, and provide proper citations when using outside sources. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct/>) 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 professor or TAs in this class.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness :

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- *University Police Department*: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.