

Course Syllabus
MUS 316
Study of Strings
Spring 2008
T-TH 8:00-9:20 & 9:30-10:50
Room 205, Fine Arts Building

Professor(s): Daniel Saenz
Office location: 101A
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Phone: 936-294-4554
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REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings (Teacher's Manual Book 1) by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes (ISBN 0-634-03816-8)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to teach stringed instruments in a classroom setting. Students will learn the basic concepts associated with correct seating positions, left hand playing position, control of bow hand position, elements of sound production, and development of proficiency in first position. The course will additionally cover topics such as different string methods and repertoire.

REQUIREMENTS:

During the course the student will:

1. Prepare weekly playing exercises, discussion notes, and/or written assignments.
2. Become familiar with string teaching techniques through class discussion and peer teaching activities.
3. Students are financially responsible for the rental instruments. When not in use during class or in a practice room, the instruments are to be kept **ONLY** in the assigned lockers.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Two absences may be taken without penalty. Absences beyond two will result in a penalty of three points per absence against the final grade. University business requires an excuse from the appropriate official before an absence is to be deemed excused. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the assignments for the next class day. You are still responsible for taking a test or turning in assignments even if you have missed the previous class.** NO EXCEPTIONS. Students must sign in for every class. A summary of your absences will be made available to you upon request.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students should be prepared each class session with all materials and accessories (i.e. pencil, instrument, bow, rock stops, etc.). Evaluation will be based on the playing assignments as well as class participation during each session.

In order to properly prepare the playing assignments, 15 to 30 minutes of practice a day is suggested. Much consideration is given to the amount of improvement each student demonstrates during each class session. One instrument will be studied each semester however; **the student is responsible for information/notes on ALL string instruments**. Individual time in class is limited; therefore if you are having trouble you are **encouraged** to meet privately with the instructor outside of class.

All assignments must be typed (double-spaced) unless specified by the instructor.

Note: Written assignments are NOT considered class projects. Electronic file sharing is not permitted. You must produce and type your own work. Violations will result in a failing grade on the notebook for all parties involved.

BLACKBOARD:

The instructor will additionally communicate with the student through the BlackBoard system. Grades are made available to the student on a weekly basis. This however will not contain the participation grade in your average as this grade is not assigned until the end of the semester.

EXAMS:

Multiple exams will be given during the semester to gauge the comprehension of each area taught. The exams may include written questions and/or demonstration of playing skills. Make-up exams MAY or MAY NOT be given based on the decision of the instructor after evaluation of the specific circumstances. *You are encouraged to be present for all exams.*

A final written and playing exam will be given at the end of the semester covering concept and potential problems for **EACH** instrument covered in class. The student is expected to take notes on the details and information given for each instrument even if they are not playing that particular instrument.

Grading will be divided into the following areas:

1. Daily assignments and quizzes (70%)
2. Final Exams (30%)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute cell phones and/or pagers before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction action in accordance with university policy.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or of the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Americans with Disabilities Act

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.