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MUS 124.01: Strings In Class I

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Syllabus
Music 124 Strings In Class
Fall 2005

Course Objectives and Goals:

This class is designed to teach you how to play the violin and the viola. The content of the course is designed with the National Standards of Music Education in mind. Further, the American String Teacher's Association has recently published guidelines for string teacher education. These guidelines will be incorporated into our discussions, projects, and exams. We will discuss topics such as setting up a string program, recruiting, advocacy, the history of the string family, selecting a good methods book, selecting appropriate music for your classes, teaching your students how to read music, and other important topics which should allow you to be a successful beginning string teacher.

Because the time allotted to this course is short, and the amount of the material that we have to cover is large, you will be reading articles written by string teachers, and observing local public school classes in addition to the activities that we do in class. Our class times will be devoted to learning how to play both the violin and the viola, discussing the readings, and providing you opportunities to teach each other. Further, I hope that we can have a few guests talk to us and that you can be part of web discussions at the ASTA web site.

Course Policies and Grading:

Attendance is required. Attendance is vital to learning the instruments and acquiring the skills and information to pass the playing and written tests. A minimum of half an hour per day of practice time will be necessary. You will be graded on your performance in class, playing and written exams and assignments. You must prepare for class by practicing your instrument, and by reading the assigned articles and chapters.

Required Materials:

- A three ring binder to hold all class materials.
- Computer access
- instrument
- Sponge

You will be required to keep a notebook that includes hand-outs, teaching ideas, class observations, and all of your assignments and exams. You will be graded on the completeness of

this notebook at the end of the term. Think of this compilation of ideas as a resource for the real world.

The index cards should be used to write teaching techniques quickly during class. We will organize them according to technique and topic.

Text Books:

Allen, Michael, Robert Gillseppe and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes. Essential Elements 2000 for Strings a Comprehensive String Method Teacher's Manual. Book 1. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corporation, 2002.

Lamb, Norman, and Susan Lamb Cook. Guide to Teaching Strings. 7th ed. Dubuque: Brown and Benchmark Publishers, 2002.

Course Schedule: Subject to Change.

Beginning String Programs

Aug 31-Sept 16 "Setting up a string program", "History of String Instruments" "Parts of instruments" Assign instruments

Sept 21-23 "Recruiting"

Sept 23 Playing exam Begin basic RH and LH techniques

Read Lamb Chapter 13 "The School String Program"
Hand out about "Setting up a string program"

In class quiz 9/28

Sept 24-Oct. 22 "Selecting Instruments", "Accessories", "Strings", and "Care and Maintenance". Possible Guest speakers and field trip.
Read Lamb p. 83, 99 sizes of instruments, Lamb Appendix 2, Read Lamb chap. 3, 4, 5, and p. 90, 101.

Playing exam 10/5

No class 10/21 **MMEA convention in Great Falls. Collect string info at the booths. Observe an All-state Orchestra rehearsal and write observation report.**

Mid Term Exams: **Playing Exam October 19 Written Exam Oct. 26**

Oct 28- Nov. 2 Read Teaching Stringed Instruments p. 1-12 Look at chart 4-5
Read "Orchestrating Meaningful Performance", John Magee
Reading Alto Clef
Methods book reviews in groups

Nov. 4-11 **Advocacy:**
Switch instruments, Review open strings and bowing technique for good tone production. Review Also clef
Read “Our Job: Understand and Articulate the Value of School Orchestra Programs”, Robert Gillespie
Read “Survivors: Quality School Orchestra Programs”, Robert Culver
Read Lamb p. 96, 104, and chapter 12 p. 135-150.

Nov. 16-18 Read Lamb chapter 11

Playing exam Nov. 18
Assign Mock teaching topics

No class November 23-25 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30- **Other Methods**
Read “New Approaches to String Instruction:”, MENC; Discussion about Suzuki, Kato Havas, Paul Rolland,
Hand out final project materials.

Dec. 2-9 National Standards
Mock teaching
Final project
Read Lamb appendix iii, iv, and National Standards Articles
Observation reports due.

Final Exam **TBA**