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MUS 124.01: Strings In Class I

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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 and 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:**


**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.

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**