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MUSI 551.00: Major Performance Area - Cello

Adam C. Collins

University of Montana, Missoula, adam.collins@umontana.edu

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School of Music University of Montana
Syllabus for Levels and Sections of Cello
Lessons
Lesson times: by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Adam Collins
Office: Music Building #110
E-mail: adam.collins@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Wed & Thurs 12-2pm

Introduction

This syllabus outlines the objectives, expectations, and grading system for all courses of individual instruction in cello. Further specific expectations for each level of lessons are also listed.

Course Objectives

After a semester of study, the student should have:

- Improved technical facility and physical ease at the cello
- Healthier and more consistent practice habits
- A more thorough understanding of repertoire for cello
- Knowledge of the historical context of repertoire learned
- A library of the repertoire learned with bowings, fingerings, and comments from the instructor for future consultation

Required Text & Materials

Cello Equipment

In addition to a cello and bow in good working condition, students should have the following materials:

- Rock stop (to be used in the studio and in all rooms in the building with wood floors)
- Rosin
- Set of extra strings
- Mute
- Tuner and metronome (stand-alone device(s) or application(s) for phone/tablet)
- In-case humidifier (commercially available or DIY/studio-crafted)
- Wolf eliminator (if necessary)

Google Doc Access

All students must have access to weekly lesson notes, which will be kept on a Google doc for each student. The instructor will make notes and comments in the document during lessons for the student to consult outside of lessons. The student should consult these notes during practice and make comments with any questions or concerns.

Etude Books and Sheet Music

After consultation with the instructor during the first week of lessons, the student should purchase one or more of the following etude books:

- Popper *High School of Cello Playing*
- Klengel *Technical Cello Studies, Volumes 1 & 2*
- Schroeder *170 Foundation Studies*
- Rick Mooney, *Position Pieces for Cello, Books 1 & 2, & Thumb Position Pieces for Cello*

Sheet music for repertoire studied should be purchased both to avoid copyright violations and so that students will grow a library of cello repertoire for future use and study. When possible, scholarly editions by publishers such as Henle or Barenreiter are preferable.

Repertoire Requirements

All students enrolled in 195, 295, 395, 495, or 551 are required to perform at least two repertoire selections during an end-of-semester jury. The repertoire is to be selected in consultation with the professor and at least one piece must be written by a composer from an underrepresented community (composer of color, female composer, LGBTQ composer, or other).

Tentative Grading Scale

Weekly attendance and preparation: 70%
Jury: 30%

Participation and Attendance

Attendance at all lessons is mandatory but a student should not attend a lesson (or any other course) if they are feeling ill. In case of absence due to illness or any other cause, the student should email the instructor with as much notice as possible.

If a student is uncomfortable meeting in person for lessons due to COVID-19, instruction will be conducted via live Zoom lessons and other remote instructional activities. While the instructor intends to meet face-to-face throughout the semester, the instructor also reserves the right to move instruction to remote modes at any time.

Attendance at all string-area and cello-related recitals, concerts, and masterclasses throughout the semester is strongly encouraged. A list of required attendance events will be shared at the beginning of the semester. Attendance at these events will be reflected in the attendance portion of the grade. If a student is unable to attend any of these events, he or she should give the instructor as much advance notice as possible.

Practice Expectations

The student and instructor will discuss weekly practice plans in each lesson. As a bare minimum, students should expect to practice at least 3 hours per enrolled credit per week. To ensure adequate progress, however, non-majors, music minors, BME, and BA students should aim to practice at least the length of their lessons per day. Performance majors should practice at least one hour daily per credit hour of lessons in which they are enrolled. Lesson time is valuable—and ideally helpful—but the progress depends on consistent and thoughtful practice outside of lessons.

Student Disabilities Services

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Lesson Meeting Policy

Students are entitled to one lesson per week of classes. The lessons schedule will be established during the first week of classes by the instructor. If a holiday, break, or other school event cancels classes on a day of a lesson, the lesson may be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

Course-specific Expectations

MUSI 102A

This section is for students taking lessons as a non-music major, secondary lessons, or in some tracks/stages of the music minor. If enrolled for 1 credit, the student is entitled to weekly half-hour lessons. Enrolling for 2 credits qualifies the student for weekly hour-long lessons, depending on the availability and teaching load of the instructor.

MUSI 195, 295, 395, & 495

These sections are for students majoring in music (BA, BM, or BME) and in some tracks/stages of the music minor. Students in these courses receive weekly hour-long lessons if enrolled for more than 1 credit hour. Students in these sections should memorize at least one of the selections for their jury and perform with piano accompaniment for the jury if appropriate.

****Music majors in MUSI 295 should expect to complete a UDRP in either their Spring or Fall juries.****

MUSI 500, 551

These sections are reserved for graduate-level study or for advanced electives for music majors in secondary lessons. Similar to MUSI 102A, students may enroll for 1 credit for half-hour lessons or 2+ credits for hour-long lessons.

COVID-19 ACCOMODATIONS

- Face masks must be used at all times by both the student and instructor during lessons
- Respect direction and foot traffic circulation signs posted around the music building to minimize congestion in hallways
- Before and after each lesson, students must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- The instructor will wipe down any stands and any other shared items in the studio before and after each lesson
- No eating or drinking is allowed in the studio
- Students should not attend lessons and notify the instructor if they are feeling ill
- Social distancing measures are inconvenient but simple steps to ensure the health of our community and our ability to continue meeting in person—let's keep up the effort together!