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### MUS 124.01: String Instruments in Class I

Margaret Baldrige

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [margaret.baldrige@umontana.edu](mailto:margaret.baldrige@umontana.edu)

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Dr. Margaret Baldrige  
Music Building 206  
e-mail mnichols@selway.umt.edu  
243-6112

Syllabus  
Music 124 Strings in Class  
Fall Semester 2001  
“2001 A String Odyssey”

**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 beginning 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 of the time allotted to this course and the amount of the material that we have to cover, much of this material will come from readings and observation times of public school classes. Our class times will be devoted to learning how to play both of these instruments, 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 (American String Teacher Association) web site. Many of the questions on quizzes and exams will come from the study questions at the end of each chapter in the Lamb book. Please look those over.

**Course Policies and Grading:**

Attendance is required. Because this is a methods course, 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. Because there is so much to learn in a short time, it is essential that you prepare for class by practicing your instruments and by reading the assigned articles and chapters. **Late assignments will be given half credit and missed playing exams will not be made up.**

**Texts:**

Allen, Michael, Robert Gillespie and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes. Essential Elements for Strings A Comprehensive String Method Teacher's Manual. Book 1. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corporation, 1995.

ASTA with NSOA, and MENC publication. The Complete String Guide: Standards, Programs, Purchase, and Maintenance. Reston, VA: Music Educators National Conference, 1988.

Lamb, Norman, and Susan Lamb Cook. Guide to Teaching Strings. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill

You will be required to keep a notebook that includes hand outs, teaching ideas, class observations and all of your assignments and quizzes. You will need to keep all of this for your future teaching jobs. Think of this compilation of ideas as a resource for the real world situation.

You will be reading a number of articles and chapters from other books. You may photocopy this grouping of articles for your own use. It would be a good idea to include them in your notebook. A detailed bibliography of the articles will follow. Also on reserve are the following resources:

Boyden, David. History of Violin Playing, From Its Origins to 1761 and Its Relationship to the Violin and Violin Music. London: Oxford University Press, 1965.

Getto, Elissa O., ed., TIPS Public Relations. Reston: Music Educators National Conference, 1988.

Dillon-Krass, Jacquelyn, and Dorothy Straub, ed. TIPS Establishing a String and Orchestra Program. Reston: Music Educators National Conference, 1991.

Music Educators National Conference., Strategies for Success In the Band and Orchestra. Reston: Music Educators National Conference, 1994.

MENC Task Force on String Education Course of Study. Teaching Stringed Instruments A Course of Study. Reston: Music Educators National Conference, 1991.

Mozart, Leopold. A Treatise On The Fundamental Principles Of Violin Playing. trans. Editha Knocker. Early Music Series 6. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.

**A detailed class schedule will follow later.**