

**Syllabus**  
**MUS 371T String Techniques**  
Thu 11:00-11:50 AM | MUSA109  
Dr. Garrick Woods, Instructor  
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**Office Hours:** Tue/Thu 10:00-11:00AM or by appointment

**Course Objectives**

Instruction in String Instrumental Techniques and Pedagogy

**Attendance**

As this course possesses a training emphasis, attendance greatly benefits each participant. You are expected to attend all class meetings. I will allow a few exceptions based on life's unexpected surprises such as the death of close family members or illness/hospitalization that justifies a formal doctor's note. These special cases must be approved and documented with me.

The following are permitted:

2 absences for any reason. Please keep in mind that I do not distinguish between voluntary absences and illness so plan accordingly because you will want to have the freedom to take a day off when you get sick.

**Grading**

Grades will be assigned for attendance, practice logs, written assignments, and playing tests.

Your grade will drop a full letter for every absence above the approved two.

**Resources for Listening and Study**

*Naxos Music Library:* Access to virtually everything you could ever want to listen to in classical music.

*Oxford Music Online:* Go here instead of Wikipedia to answer any music questions.

To access these go to <http://libguides.humboldt.edu/c.php?g=303716&p=2027268> (bookmark that link) and click the service you want. You will then have to log in with your HSU credentials.

Or do it the long way:

Go to <http://library.humboldt.edu> and hover over “search and locate” then click “articles and databases and click “music.” Click the service you want. You will then have to log in with your HSU credentials.

YouTube is also a good resource to find video of great string performers.

[www.imslp.org](http://www.imslp.org) is the go-to place to view or print music scores in the public domain.

The good people at the instrument shop will help you borrow and maintain your instruments.

## **Course Overview**

Course activities are subject to change as needed but generally follow a logical progression. Absence from some classes may adversely affect your understanding of future class materials.

### **Week 1**

Intro to course and syllabus:

esp. grading, playing quizzes, & attendance

Quick overview of instrument and origin

Setup

#### **1st Position**

D Major Scale, 0134, 0134

### **Week 2**

Begin with big open bows. Fill the room with sound.

Basic bowing patterns, and tunes in D Major

Twinkles,

### **Week 3**

G Major notes

### **Week 4**

C Major notes, 2 octave scale

### **Week 5**

D Major 2 octaves, extensions

\*Position Graphs

*Potter and Alexanian illustrations*

### **Week 6**

G Major 2 octaves, 4th position and shifting.  
System of numbering the positions.

**Week 7**

Other positions/ 3 finger positions (diatonic fingering), tenor clef \*Position graphs

**Week 8**

Thumb position, treble clef

**Week 9**

Bass. Instrument and setup:  
height and balance points  
Bow similarities and differences  
Tuning \*Think guitar  
Chromatic fingering with spacing \*extended position  
G Major scale

**Week 10**

4th position as an alternative starting point/comfortable place  
Suzuki and Vance. Bass position numbering systems.  
Practice balance while shifting between 1st and 4th.

**Week 11**

**3rd Position** - a necessary diatonic bridge  
the first place most students will shift.

**Week 12**

**Pivots** 1-24 vs. 124  
C Major scale

**Week 13**

**Half Position**

**Week 14**

**Getting it all in shape**

**Week 15**

**Getting it all in shape**

**Syllabus Addendum**

Campus Policies and Resources:

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resources-policies>

I encourage students to review this information to understand your rights as well as the

expectation the University has for students and instructors. Please review especially the Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy and Student Code of Conduct as we will require a respectful and peaceful environment for our work. Counseling and Psychological Services and can also serve as a huge benefit to University students in the midst of stress and social difficulties.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### *Course Student Learning Outcomes*

1. Students will be able to demonstrate correct posture and fundamental playing techniques on violin, viola, cello, and bass.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of string techniques sufficient to teach beginning and intermediate-level students.
3. Students will demonstrate familiarity with information needed to teach a beginning strings class including string method books, fundamentals of string instrument care and repair, and information about purchasing instruments.
4. Students will demonstrate familiarity with skills, concepts, and resources appropriate for use with advanced-level students.

### *Music Student Learning Outcomes*

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
2. Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.
3. Students will demonstrate effective English writing skills.

### *HSU graduates will have demonstrated:*

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.