

Humboldt State University Music Department
Mus 108T – Beginning Strings –Spring 2018

Monday, Wednesday, 2PM, room 109, Music A

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Office Hours: as posted on office door, or by appointment

Course description: Class instruction on the violin, viola, cello and bass. Open to all - no previous experience required. This course is a GE activity class that fulfills the lower division Area C requirement. This is a graded course.

In addition to learning basic playing skills and how to read music, instruction will be given on injury prevention and dealing with tensions as they arise in order to maintain physical, mental, and emotional health.

Required materials: Essential Elements 2000, book 1 and a folder for handouts. Instruments for the semester are available through the Music Department for free with a signed instrument checkout form.

Requirements and Grading:

60% of the grade is based on:

- Attendance: you may miss 3 classes for any reason, and no prior email is required. For more than 3 absences, please send e-mail notification *before* class about absences involving illness, or academic/professional responsibilities. More than three unexcused absences could affect your grade. Chronically poor attendance *will* affect your grade due to missed participation, quizzes, evaluations, and tests. Furthermore, *you are required to attend the mid-term, final, and every class during the last two weeks of term in order to prepare for the final. Failure to attend the last 2 weeks of class without a valid excuse will lower your grade by 5 points*
- Participation in class activities involving learning new skills.
- Demonstrations of regular practice. There will be evaluation and quiz days where you will be asked to play assigned work (done in groups, so don't worry!), and skill-demonstrations of (1) the bow hold, (2) the bow strokes, (3) the upper half bow use, (4) the left hand shape, (5) left hand finger action, and last but not least, (6) correct posture

showing good body use (how you sit or stand and hold the instrument). You will be given a practice log to turn in at various times.

- 10% of the grade will be based on your mastery of assigned pieces at mid-term and/or a written test covering instrument parts and musical terms covered to that point.
- 20% of the grade will be based on the final. 10% is an in-class concert given on the last day of class. 10% is the individual final, where you play alone for me for 5-10 minutes. It is given during finals week. *You must attend both the class final and the individual final in order to pass the class.* The individual final for this class is scheduled for 12:40 – 2:30 PM on Wednesday, May 9. The individual final is as Thursday, May 10, but may be taken the week before, after the last day of class. We will discuss this in class.
- 5% of the grade is based on a report of a musical performance you attend, featuring the instrument you are learning. The report of about a page in length should include objective observations and subjective reactions based on what you've learned so far. A program or ticket stub must be included with the report. The concerts can be off-campus as well as on. There are many music department concerts listed on bulletin boards. The concert report is due no later than at your individual final.
- 5% of the grade is based on keeping and submitting a practice log. It is assumed that 20 – 30 minutes of practice time, four to five times a week will be sufficient to prepare assignments to a good standard of playing.

Make-ups for missed, unannounced class quizzes may be made up *if* prior notification of the absence was given, but no make-ups of playing evaluations will be possible.

108T – Required Syllabus Information and Student Learning Outcomes

HSU required syllabus information:

This course explicitly contributes to students' acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to HSU Learning Outcomes: HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Effective communication through written and oral modes
- Critical and creative thinking skill in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues
- Competence in a major area of study
- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individual, communities, and viewpoints

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.

- Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

Music Department Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genre, and cultural sources.

Area C, GE Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will apply discipline-specific vocabulary and central discipline-specific concepts and principles to a specific instance, literary work, or artistic creation.
- Students will respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will differentiate between emotional and intellectual responses
- Students will explain the nature and scope of the perspectives and contributions found in a particular discipline within the Arts and Humanities as related to the human experience, both individually and collectively.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual, imaginative, and cultural elements involved in the creative arts through their (or as a result of their) participation and study of drama, music, studio art, or creative writing.

Course specific Student Learning Outcomes – 108T

- Students will demonstrate healthy fundamental techniques including proper posture, on one instrument.
- Students will demonstrate beginning-level performance skills including aspects as good tone, accuracy of pitch, accurate rhythm, dynamics, and phrasing.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to listen critically and give constructive feedback, both to themselves and others.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of musical terminology and be able to read music.

Other:

<https://academicprograms.humboldt.edu/content/syllabus-addendum>