

Violin/Viola Studio Lessons – Music 233/234t

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Office Hours: as posted on office door or by appointment

Course Description:

Individual instruction on the violin/viola. This is a graded course that requires consistent individual practice as well as performance(s). Personal goals as far as technical aims and musical choices will be honored as much as possible. A student must be able to meet the daily commitment to practice as stated below under Practice.

Required Materials: instruments and bows will be provided free-of-charge from the music department. Have a 3-ring binder with pockets. Students might be required to purchase music.

Video Assignment: Watch the Kato Havas video *The New Approach to Violin Playing, A Teaching Video*, in the library. This video addresses ways to avoid and cure many of the physical and mental stresses associated with string playing. We will discuss how to apply these principles into your own playing during lessons. This assignment is due by mid-term – the exact date will be assigned later.

Grades: will be based on

20% - attendance at concerts (10%), completion of reading/listening assignments (5%) non-musical preparation (getting and bringing music to lessons, communication with pianists) (5%)

65% - evidence of consistent, quality practice that results in improvement in playing. A practice log and weekly lesson notes will be checked regularly. As part of your weekly practice, occasional studio master classes will be held at a time when attendance is mutually possible for students.

10% the quality of performances at recitals in and outside of school

5% end-of-semester jury grade

Note: The departmental lesson policy states: "A grade of B- is the minimum acceptable grade for lessons. A lower grade will result in probationary status in the studio."

Ensemble Requirement: All students who are taking lessons must play violin or viola in at least one music department ensemble.

Attendance: You may miss one lesson for any reason. After that, each additional missed lesson may lower your semester grade by one notch (B to B- for example). Missed performances (recitals, outside trips, etc.) without a valid excuse will lower your grade by one whole letter. You must fulfill the performance requirement to pass the class.

Practice: Your improvement and progress is directly related to the quantity and quality of your practice. Music majors at top schools practice 3 to 4 hours every day. To make adequate progress, *music majors* at HSU will need to schedule at least 1 1/2 to 2 hours of *daily* practice. *Non-majors* should schedule in *at least a half hour every day*. If your schedule makes this amount of time commitment impossible, you should not take lessons. Make sure that you are *concentrating* while you practice and that you focus on doing what we work on in your lesson. Take notes during lessons and strive to improve what was worked on.

Concerts: All *music majors* are required to attend a minimum of 6 *concerts* each semester. Concerts that you play in count only if you are in the audience for at least 75% of the concert. In addition, three of those concerts must involve a violin or viola. *Music minors* must attend at least *four concerts*, while *non-majors* are expected to attend at least *three*, at least two of which must involve a violin or viola. *Save your concert programs!* They are due (along with your Lesson Summary Form) at your end of the semester jury.

Performance: Musicians share their art through performances. The only way to develop confidence and control while performing is to do *lots* of performing. For music majors this is absolutely essential, but even for non-majors, the experience of performing tends to inspire better practice, prepares you for auditions into the community orchestra in the town where you will eventually live, prepares you for the performances you will give at your friends' weddings, and gives you confidence in your ability to make public presentations of any sort later in life.

Performance requirements: All students are expected to perform at least *once* a semester unless an outside field trip to a local nursing home or school makes the playing requirement *twice* a semester. I strongly believe that it of great benefit to perform for others in a different venue than a recital – a venue which will be most like the non-judgmental, casual music-making that you will be doing in the future. A trip would require a one or one and a half hour commitment that might take place on a Saturday. If planned, the exact date will be communicated to you well beforehand. Unless you have a compelling excuse, attendance is mandatory. Besides this, you are required to perform at a studio recital, the end-of-term jury, and as many Friday-at-noon concerts as recommended or that you find helpful. Failure to attend required performances without an adequate excuse will lower your grade by one whole letter for one concert requirement and half a grade (a plus or minus) for two concert requirements..

Listening/ Reading: You can learn a great deal about music making from listening to

recordings, attending concerts, and reading about various aspects of music making. All students will be expected to attend concerts and do some reading or listening, as described on the "Private Lesson Summary Form." YouTube videos featuring your instrument are fine. Listening to as many recordings as possible of the piece you are studying is especially important. Listening is by far the best way to learn about the expressive aspects of music; daily listening to the piece you are studying improves your playing as much as if you practiced an eighth day in each week.

Juries: All students who take private lessons are required to take a jury examination at the end of the semester. During the jury you will play the technical exercises that we have worked on during the semester and some of your solo repertoire. Special "upper division qualifying juries" are required to determine if & when you are ready to register for upper division (400-level) studio lessons. Students who plan to perform a Junior or Senior recital will have a special jury at least 5 days before the recital. For these pre-recital juries, students will perform excerpts from the recital repertoire; the jury panel must give clearance before the recital can be performed. Students who complete a recital jury do not have to take an end-of-the-semester jury.

Your completed lesson summary form, concert programs, and answers to the video questions are due at your jury appointment. If you do not hand in a lesson summary form, you will receive no credit for concert attendance or reading/listening (15% of your grade) and you put future lessons at jeopardy due to perceived lack of interest.

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 skills 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 individuals, 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 Studies and Performance Option Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with and an ability to perform a wide selection of music literature representing a variety of composers and styles.
- Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual, imaginative, and cultural elements involved in the creative arts through their, of as a result of their, participation in and study of drama, music, studio art or creative writing.

Course specific Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate improvement in technique, tone, musicianship, and intonation.
- Students will polish and perform repertoire appropriate to their level of skill.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of their musical role within the context of the large group setting.
- Students will make meaningful assessments of the quality of their own large ensemble performance.

Other information

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

Violin/Viola Audition Requirements

Violin – Sample repertoire by level

Advanced Intermediate - Handel Sonatas in D and A, Dvorak Sonatina, Bach Concerto in a minor, Monti *Csardas*, Mozart Sonatas, Op. 1, Meditation from Thais, (equivalent to Suzuki Books 6/7)

Advanced – Mozart Concerto in G major, Bartok Roumanian Folk Dances, Boulanger Two Pieces, Schubert Sonatinas, Dvorak Romantic Pieces, Kabalevsky Concerto, Haydn Concerto in G, (equivalent to Suzuki Book 8 – 8+)

Professional – Mozart Concertos in D and A, Beethoven Sonatas, solo Bach, Bruch Concerto, Mendelssohn Concerto, Copland Sonata, Brahms Sonatas

Viola – Sample Repertoire by level

Advanced Intermediate – J.C. Bach Concerto, Handel/Cassadeseus Concerto, Bloch: Meditation and Processional, Kalliwoda Nocturnes, Bruch: Kol Nidre (Equivalent to Suzuki Books 6/7)

Advanced – Hoffmeister Concerto, Bruch Romance, solo Bach (cello suites), Stamitz Concerto, Bach Gamba Sonatas

Professional - Schumann Fairy Tales, Bloch: Suite Hebraique, Brahms Sonatas, Hindemith Sonatas, Arpeggione Sonata, Walton Concerto, more Bach cello suites

Audition Requirements

Upper Division lessons: students taking Upper Division lessons should be studying at the Advanced Intermediate level or beyond. A student auditioning for upper division lessons should demonstrate excellent playing at the Advanced Intermediate level.

Music Education Option: two pieces of Advanced Intermediate level or beyond. (Students auditioning with fewer than 3 semesters until graduation should perform at least one piece at the Advanced level.)

Performance Option: Freshman year audition - two pieces at the Advanced level or beyond. Sophomore year audition – two pieces at the Professional level.

Ensemble Requirements for Violin and Viola Majors

General or Composition Option:

- Play violin or viola in an ensemble every semester during which you take studio lessons.
- Complete at least five semesters of a conducted Ensemble (either Humboldt Symphony or Intermediate Orchestra)
- Complete at least two semesters of Chamber Music
- Complete a minimum of 8 semesters of Ensemble participation

Performance Option:

- Play violin or viola in an ensemble every semester during which you take studio lessons.
- Complete at least eight semesters of a conducted Ensemble (either Humboldt Symphony or Intermediate Orchestra)
- Complete at least four semesters of Chamber Music
- Complete a minimum of 12 Ensemble courses.

Music Education Option:

- Complete at least four semesters of a conducted instrumental Ensemble (Intermediate Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Humboldt Symphony)
- Complete at least one semester of a jazz ensemble
- Complete at least one semester of chamber music
- Complete at least two semesters of a vocal ensemble
- Complete a minimum of 8 semesters of Ensemble participation

Recommended:

- A conducted ensemble on your instrument *every* semester
- At least four semesters of chamber music and/or jazz ensembles
- At least one semester of Intermediate Orchestra on a “Families” instrument
- At least four semesters of vocal ensembles (with as much variety as possible)