

Viola Syllabus – Spring 2025

MVS 1412 and 2422, 2 credit hours per semester

MVS 3432 and 4442, 3 credit hours per semester

MVO 6460, 3 credit hours per semester

MVO 7061, 3 credit hours per semester

MVS3970 Junior Recital Strings, MVS4971 Senior Recital Strings,

MUS7951 Individual Project (DMA recital)

Time: Private lesson TBA and Studio Class Tuesday 6th Period (12:50-1:40 PM)

Location: MUB 304 (studio class MUB 142)

Instructor

Lauren Hodges, DMA

lhodges@arts.ufl.edu

Phone: office 352-294-7900 or via cell (preferred)

Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisites for all viola lessons

Students must audition before at least three members of the string faculty to be admitted into the studio. Audition requirements are two contrasting pieces (usually one movement of solo Bach and one movement from a standard concerto) and sight-reading. Students who did not audition on a scheduled SOM audition day must arrange an audition before the end of the DROP/ADD period at the beginning of the semester. Non-majors will be accepted on a space-available basis. All violists in the studio must register and play in the University Symphony Orchestra.

Course Description

Requirements for 1412

Typical Technique assignments: Barbara Barber *Scales for Advanced Violists*, 1-position scales, 3 octave scales with acceleration drills (slurred, separate, martele)

Whistler *Introducing the Positions vol. 1 and 2*, Kreutzer etudes

At minimum, students are expected to complete one scale and one etude per week.

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Bruch *Romanze*, Concerti by J.C. Bach, Stamitz, Hoffmeister, Handel

*Students are required to perform in studio class at least twice per semester. Semester-end juries are 10 minutes and do not require 2 contrasting works. After a work is performed in a jury, it may not be repeated in a later jury.

Requirements for 2422

Technique assignments: All 3-octave major and minor scales must be mastered and memorized with the acceleration drill at m=60

Mazas and Kreutzer etudes, Whistler *Introducing the Positions vol. 2*

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Schubert "Arpeggione," Schumann "Fairy Tales," Glinka Sonata, Bloch *Suite Hebraique*

**Students are required to perform in studio class at least twice per semester. Semester-end juries are 10 minutes and do not require 2 contrasting works. For all music majors (NOT minors), a 15-minute Pre-Professional Jury is required at the end of the 2nd semester of 2000-level study

for admittance to the 3000 level. 2 contrasting works must be performed in a 10-minute jury, and the student must sight-read and speak for 5 additional minutes about one of the pieces performed. Students must be passed by a majority of the faculty present. If the student fails any portion of the PPJ (repertoire, technique, sight-reading, or speaking), it must be repeated at the beginning of the subsequent semester and provisional acceptance into 3000 level may be granted.

Requirements for 3432

Technique assignments: 3 octave and one-position scales with a variety of bowings and rhythms, Flesch 3 octave arpeggios in every key, double-stops, Kreutzer and Campagnoli etudes or orchestral excerpts

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Walton or Hindemith Concerti, Sonatas by Hindemith, Clarke or Brahms

***Students are required to perform in studio class at least three times during the semester and should also seek out performance opportunities elsewhere. For the jury in the first semester of 3000-level study, students must present two contrasting works for a total playing time of 15 minutes. For all majors other than the B.M. in Performance, the completion of 2 semesters of MVS 3432, along with the presentation of a junior recital, fulfills the curricular requirement for viola study.

Requirements MVS3970 Junior Recital: The recital program, given in the 2nd semester of 3432, must represent diverse styles and periods, include at least one memorized movement from Bach's unaccompanied cello suites, and have program notes on the repertoire performed. The length of the program should be at least 30 minutes. A jury is required 2 weeks before the recital, in front of all members of the student's committee. The entire program must be ready to be performed, and the committee will listen, at its discretion, to 15 minutes of the program. The committee must include the student's professor, another faculty member from the String Area, and a faculty member from outside the String Area. For students continuing on to the 4000 level of study (which includes those seeking the Performer's Certificate) the successful presentation of the Junior Recital is required. Students must be passed by all members of their faculty committee, and the student will be notified as soon as the committee has conferred and reached an agreement. If all members of the committee are present at the recital, it should be that same evening; otherwise, the student must immediately provide a recording of the recital to any absent faculty.

Requirements for 4442, MVO 6460, and MVO 7061

Technique assignments: 3 octave scales and arpeggio series memorized at $m=60$, Kreutzer, Campagnoli, Rode etudes and/or orchestra excerpts

Sample Repertoire: Bach Suites, Concerti by Walton, Hindemith or Bartok, Sonatas by Brahms, Clarke, Vieuxtemps, Hindemith, Bloch, or Bowen

**** Students are required to perform in studio class at least three times during the semester and should also seek out performance opportunities in Student Performance Convocations and area recitals. For the jury performances, students must present two contrasting works for a total playing time of fifteen minutes.

Requirements for MVS4971 Senior Recital Strings or MUS7951 Individual Project (DMA recital)

A Senior Recital is required during the second semester of 4442 with program notes on the repertoire being performed. Graduate students in the MM and DMA programs will register for the Individual Project and follow the same plan during any semester where he/she plans to perform a solo recital. The recital program must represent diverse styles and periods and must include at least one memorized movement from Bach's cello suites. The length of the program should be at least 40 minutes. A jury is required two weeks before the recital in front of all members of the student's committee. The entire program must be ready to be performed, and the committee will listen, at its discretion, to 15 minutes of the program. The committee must include the student's professor, another faculty member from the String Area, and a faculty member from outside the String Area.

Course Objectives

- Perform and interpret music of representative styles.
- Present performances of solo and chamber repertoire in a variety of styles and settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply analytical and historical knowledge in live performance.
- Demonstrate an increasingly advanced level of performance skill throughout the four semesters of study, appropriate to semester of study and the liberal arts and music education degree expectations.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Students must have an instrument and bow in good working condition, and students are responsible for regular maintenance and repairs. Strings should be changed every semester and the bow re-haired every year (minimum).
Repairs: forbows@gmail.com or arroyobows@gmail.com
- Shoulder rest/pad, rosin, metronome, tuner, mute, folder, pencil, cleaning cloth, and notebook/practice log
- Assigned music and scores (if applicable) purchased online or checked out at the library. All students need to purchase the Kreutzer etudes, Bach suites (Peters edition), and a scale book (Barber).
- Video or audio recording device (phone, iPad, Shure microphone, Zoom, etc.) brought to every lesson and used to record daily practice and scale submissions.

Recommended Books and Resources

Melissa Matson, *Exploring Excerpts: a violist's guide to building skills for orchestral playing, Complete, Parts 1 and 2*, by Melissa Matson, PDF. [Available for purchase here.](#)

Molly Gebrian, *Learn Faster, Perform Better: A Musician's Guide to the Neuroscience of Practicing*, Oxford University Press, 2024. Available for purchase [here](#).

Course Schedule

- Lessons will be held weekly according to the schedule posted on the door. Any changes must be communicated by email or text at least 24 hours in advance.
- Weekly Studio Class may include excerpt class, technique class, scale class, guest masterclass, topical workshop, performance class, or area recital
- Additional required recitals or masterclasses will be listed on the studio class calendar at the beginning of the semester. Attendance will be graded.

STUDIO POLICY FOR ALL LEVELS OF VIOLA LESSONS

Evaluation of Grades



1. Weekly grades (50%)

Weekly submission (15 points each)

Students must submit recordings of scale assignments in Canvas prior to posted deadlines. A minimum of 12 must be completed every semester, and there is a make-up week at the end of the semester to submit a missed assignment. Each scale is valued at 15 points in the Weekly Grade category. If there is no submission, we will hear your scale performances live in studio class.

Weekly lesson grades (100 points each)

Students are expected to come to each lesson prepared. If you come to a lesson without practicing and preparing assigned materials, you will receive a failing grade for the lesson. An unexcused absence is recorded as a zero for the weekly grade. Weekly grades are determined by sufficient practice, etude/excerpt completion, scale submission and appropriate progress on solo works assigned (see rubric below):

Lesson Grade   							Pts
Criteria	Ratings						
Description of criterion	100 pts A	90 pts A-	85 pts B	75 pts C	65 pts D	0 pts E/U	100 pts
	Well-prepared. Many improvements made from previous week on all assigned materials, and great effort	Mostly well-prepared but might be missing an assigned component: scale, etude, log, excerpt,	Somewhat prepared with some improvements made from previous week, good effort	Not very well-prepared with very little improvements made from previous week; mediocre effort	Poorly prepared with no improvement made from previous week. Poor effort	No preparation or improvements made, no effort. Missed lesson (unexcused absence) or more than 5	

You are not being judged by how advanced you are, but by the effort you put into your assignments, regardless of your ability. If you practice carefully, and do your assignments, you will improve, which is essential to moving on to the next level of study. Those starting at MVS1412 must reach the standards of 2422 by the end of the first year; likewise, those studying at the 2422 level must meet the requirements of 3432 before they can move on. All music majors must pass the Pre-Professional Jury before they can be registered for 3432; registration for 4442 is upon successful presentation of the Junior Recital and is determined by the recital committee of 3 faculty members.

Practice Log

Students must keep a practice log or journal including date, time, and materials covered for each session. Typical music performance majors log 20-25 hours per week (approximately 4 hours per day, 6 days per week). Music education and dual degree students are expected to log 12-18 hours (2-3 hours per day, 6 days per week) at minimum. If you have not already established these practice habits, we will make a plan together and work up to this level gradually so that we avoid overuse injuries. For health

and wellness, it is important to take one day off every week (a full 24 hours without touching your instrument).

*Try using a timer for 25 min segments followed by a 5 min break (Pomodoro method). 50 min of practice within each hour to avoid injury and keep your mind sharp!

Suggested break-down:

1/3 Warm-up, basics and scale

1/3 Etude and Bach

1/3 Concerto

Additional time as needed (chamber and orchestral repertoire)

2. Attendance (10%)

Attendance at studio classes, the instructor's recitals, student recitals by members of the viola studio, studio recitals, Viola Day, and guest artist performances is mandatory. You will receive a list of required events at the beginning of the semester (**Studio Class Calendar** handout). It is the expectation that students will arrive on time and stay for the full duration of all events listed. In case of a conflict with a legitimate prior commitment, the instructor must be informed of the conflict within 24 hours of the announcement of the event. Legitimate prior commitments include academic obligations to the University and/or School of Music, religious observances, critical personal events that cannot be rescheduled and non-refundable travel. Please plan work schedules and other obligations accordingly so that you can attend.

Zoom etiquette: Keep your camera on and stay engaged for the duration of virtual studio and/or guest masterclasses to receive attendance credit.

Attendance and tardiness for studio classes and required recitals is recorded using the Roll Call tool in Canvas, and students can check this grade online. **If you arrive more than two minutes late, you will be counted as absent.**

You must give at least 24-hour notice when missing a private lesson, and absences may be excused only for illness or personal/family emergencies. If you meet these conditions, I will offer a make-up lesson in person or via Zoom **according to your class schedule provided on or before the first day of class each semester.** You may switch lesson times with another student in the studio without penalty if you must miss your lesson time for any reason. It is your responsibility to arrange this and then communicate any changes to all parties involved.

An absence I don't know about at least 24 hours ahead of time is **UNEXCUSED**, and each unexcused absence **counts as a zero for your weekly lesson grade.** **If you are more than five minutes late, the lesson will be graded as an unexcused absence.** In cases of serious illness or other emergency arising the day of the lesson, leave a message or text me on my cell phone, anytime between 8 AM and 10 PM. Absence two weeks in a row due to illness must be verified by a doctor's excuse. **Email will not cover you, so do NOT email without also texting me that you will be missing a lesson. Students are required to check Canvas, ufl.edu email accounts and texts daily to ensure good communication with the professor.**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

3. Studio Class (20%)

Studio class is held weekly, and attendance is required for all viola majors. Studio class may be used for viola ensemble, scale class, technique class, orchestral excerpts, viola masterclass, student performance class, or area recital. Scale exams and/or mock auditions may be scheduled during studio class and graded in this category.

Performances in studio class are required of all repertoire studied and will be graded. Works with piano accompaniment must be performed with accompaniment and heard in a lesson prior to the class. Undergraduates at the 1000 and 2000 level must perform a minimum of two times per semester; 3000, 4000 and graduate students must perform a minimum of three. The grades will be averaged together to achieve this portion of your grade. It is in your best interest to perform as often as possible. Memory is required for solo Bach and preferred for concerti.

4. Jury Performance (20%)

You will be graded and critiqued by the string faculty at the end of each semester. All those registered at the 1000 and 2000 level need to prepare at least one work for a total of 10 minutes; those registered at the 3000, 4000, and graduate levels must play 2 contrasting works, for a total playing time of 15 minutes. Concerti and solo Bach should be memorized. Once a work has been performed for a jury, it may not be repeated in another. All works with piano accompaniment must be performed with a pianist; securing a pianist and getting him/her to show up on time for the jury is your responsibility. Your jury grade will be lowered one whole letter grade if you play without piano accompaniment, if you do not memorize your Bach, or if you are late. The grades assigned by each faculty member will be averaged together to arrive at this portion of your grade. If you do not show up or are unable to take the jury, you may opt to receive an Incomplete for the semester; a jury will be held as early as possible in the succeeding semester, and the Incomplete removed. Juries are typically held on the Saturday after reading days. Students are exempt from this requirement in any semester where they perform a solo recital.

All grades will be determined based on the following scale:

A: 94-100% A-: 90-93% B+: 87-89% B: 84-86%

B-: 80-83% C+: 77-79% C: 74-76% C-: 70-73%

D+: 67-69% D: 64-66% D-: 60-63% E: 0-59

More information on grades and grading policies can be found here:

catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/.

Online Issues

For resolving technical issues (e.g. [visit the helpdesk website](#) or call 352-392-4357).

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom.

Dress Code: Performance Attire

A performance serves as an event for students to share their music, to hone their performance skills, and to hear peers, music faculty, and guest artists. A performance dress code is implemented so that the enjoyment of the musical experience is not diminished by distractions from inappropriate attire. Students are advised that proper modest and dignified attire is required when performing in school of music events including student recitals and degree recitals.

1. Absolutely no:
 - a. hats
 - b. flip-flops or sneakers
 - c. t-shirts
 - d. jeans or shorts
 - e. skirts above the knee
 - f. strapless or spaghetti-strap tops
2. Recommended attire for men: slacks, button-up collared shirt, dress shoes with socks. (Tie and/or jacket optional)
3. Recommended attire for women: dress or skirt/slacks and top, no high-heels higher than 2 inches. Dresses/skirts should be knee-length or below.

Any exception to this dress code must be approved by the student's applied professor or the ensemble director.

Consequences for failing to meet the dress code are at the discretion of the applied professor or ensemble director and may include a lowered grade or the cancellation of the student's performance.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor

and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here](#) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Please email your accommodation letter to Dr. Hodges by the Drop/Add deadline so that modifications can be made. Accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Technical Support

Please contact the helpdesk to resolve technical difficulties with Canvas: helpdesk.ufl.edu, 352-392-4357

Campus Resources:

Campus Writing Center: Students are encouraged to use the Campus Writing Center for extra help with the writing assignments. Students who use the Writing Center must submit all drafts of the paper, including the suggestions and revisions from the center. If you are asked to use the writing center, you will be expected to do so and to submit all drafts of your paper. Information about the center is available at www.at.ufl.edu/r&w/.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).