

Sul Ross State University

MUS 2121-001: String Techniques

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Fall 2019
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TR 2:00-2:50
FAB 100
Office Hours: Posted on
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Office Hours:

Mon. 3:30-4:00
Tues. 1:30-2:00
Wed. 3:30-4:00
Thurs. 3:30-4:00
Fri. 10:30-11:00; 2:30-3:00

Text: The instructor will provide written materials to the students for this class.

Supplies: The student is expected to keep his assignments and handouts in order in a 3-ring binder or some type of folder or notebook.

Music Standards: For students who are pursuing Teacher Certification in Music, the following Music Standards (as issued by the SBEC) apply to this course:

Standard I- The music teacher has comprehensive visual and aural knowledge of musical perception and performance.

Standard II- The music teacher sings and plays a musical instrument.

Standard III- The music teacher has a comprehensive knowledge of music notation.

Standard IV- The music teacher creates and arranges music.

Program Learning Outcomes for Music:

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she:

1. Is able to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance
2. Is able to prepare appropriate program notes
3. Is able to evaluate and critique a musical performance
4. Has a general knowledge of music history

Course Description: This course is intended to give students a basic knowledge of the bowed string instruments, guitar and ukulele.

Student Learning Objectives:

Be able to label the different parts of these instruments and know which terms they share in common.

Be aware of the difference in sizes in these instruments especially as it applies to teaching children.

How to select and replace strings for these instruments

How to evaluate the condition and playability of these instruments

Proper care of these instruments

Know the range, tuning and notational possibilities for these instruments

Proper playing techniques for these instruments

Attendance: The instructor will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class. An absence because of participation in an official university activity is considered to be an authorized absence. Please refer to pages 53-54 of the 2018-2019 University Catalog.

Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an “F” in the course dropped. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a **W** for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Please refer to pages 53-54 of the 2018-2019 University Catalog for policy regarding the final grades of **WF**, **WX** and **W0**.

Tardiness: Students who arrive after the instructor has taken roll will be considered tardy. Students who are habitually tardy may, at the instructor’s discretion, be asked to explain/perform the previous class assignment.

Student Schedule: Due to the limited number of available instruments they will be taught in rotation. The following chart will clarify when the different students will be studying the various instruments covered in the course. The first class meeting will be introductory; the last two class meetings will be review for the final exam. This leaves approximately four class meetings for each of the instruments studied. However, since there is only one cello it will be necessary to double up on it in some rotations.

Start	8-29	9-12	9-26	10-10	10-24	11-7
End	9-10	9-24	10-8	10-22	11-5	11-21
Aiden	Vla.	Vln.	Cello	D.B.	Guit.	Uke
Johnathan	D.B.	Vla.	Vln.	Guit.	Uke	Cello
Raul	Uke	Guit.	Vln.	Cello	Vla.	D.B.
Ember	Vln.	Vla.	Guit.	B.D.B.	Uke	Cello
Justice	Vln.	Cello	Vla.	Uke	Guit.	D.B.

Stringed Instrument Topics

Overview of Stringed Instruments- their common elements and components

Terminology

Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass Viol

Tuning, range & clefs used in notation

Instrument sizes for children- how to determine proper size; parts of the instruments

The Bow- Components; preparation, use & care; German and French bass bows; notation; mutes

Posture; hand/arm positions for bowed string instruments; bowing on open strings

Finger position on the fingerboard; bowing notes on the neck; pizzicato

Care of instruments; anatomy of instruments- the bass bar, sound post & bridge

Selecting and changing strings; resetting the bridge

Guitar

Different types and sizes; tuning, range; posture; placement of arms/hands

Playing techniques for guitar- strumming w/ thumb, index or pick; simplified chords

Types of notation- block diagrams, tablature and staff notation; bass guitar- techniques, range and notation

Guitar choir- advantages for beginners and children; classical guitar technique

Parts of guitar; evaluating condition of guitar; care of guitar

Selecting and changing strings

Ukulele

Advantages, tuning, range & notation

Playing techniques (thumb and index)

Pick and finger-style playing; single-note melody

Similarity of ukulele to guitar

Music Studied: The pieces utilized in this course will be taken from String Ensemble Method for Teacher Education by Arthur C. Edwards. (Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Publishers, 1959.) The pieces selected will also be adapted for guitar and ukulele using block chord diagrams, staff notation and tablature.

Grading: There will be 6 written and /or playing tests which will be given on the last day of each rotation. The Final Exam will be given at the university's recommended date and time. The tests are all counted equally in grade averaging. **Students who do not take their tests on time will have 5 points deducted from their test grade for each class period that they have not taken the test unless they have a valid excuse.**

50%- Progress in assignments/ test scores

A= 90-100

30%- Attendance

B= 80-89+

10%- Keeping track of handouts

C= 70-79+

10%- Tardiness

D= 60-69+

F= 59+ or below

FINAL EXAM: Mon., Dec. 9th @ 12:30-2:30

Playing tests will be conducted in class but in cases where the student is very uncomfortable playing in front of others the student can arrange to play for the teacher on a private basis.

A.D.A. Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C. in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

The Six-Drop Rule: A student is allowed to drop no more than 6 courses. Please refer to pages 53 of the 2018-2019 University Catalog for a detailed explanation.

Important dates for Fall 2019:

Aug. 29- Last day for late registration and schedule changes

Sept. 2- Labor Day Holiday, no classes

Sept. 22- Last day to apply for Dec. graduation without a late fee.

Nov. 11- Veterans Day Holiday, no classes

Nov. 16- Last day to withdraw from the University or to drop courses with a grade of "W."

Drops must be processed and in the Registrar's Office by 4 p.m.

Nov. 27- Dec. 1- Thanksgiving Holidays

