Course Syllabus
String Methods

Course Number: MUSI 3137.***  
Spring 2024
1 Credit Hour

INSTRUCTOR:
Name: Dr. Evgeni Raychev
E-mail: raycheve@sfasu.edu
Office: Music Building, 275A
Phone: 468-7901 (please e-mail on D2L)
Office Hours: By appointment (e-mail me on D2L or see me before/after class)
Class meeting:
  Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:00-11:50, in person, R 170

D2L: https://d2l.sfasu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Introductory training in playing violin, viola, cello and string bass. (1 semester hour credit; 2 hours lab/contact hours per week. Prerequisite: MTC 161)

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
There are no specific general education core curriculum objectives in this course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
The String Methods course (MUP 307.*** ) at Stephen F. Austin State University is an essential part of the requirements for music education. The goals and objectives of the course are:
1. To gather knowledge about the bowed string instruments seen in the orchestra today in regards to their history, structure, and basic performance techniques.
2. To gain a working knowledge and practice regarding the performance of each instrument. This includes the understanding and performance of basic scales and beginning-level solos.
3. To provide all members of the class a foundation in the planning and instruction of a beginning strings class in the public schools.
4. To provide quality musical experiences to every member of the class on a regular basis.
TEXT AND MATERIALS:

Required:

• Evgeni Raychev. An Eight-Week Course Plan, Cello & Double Bass. Available on D2L.
• Allen, Michael. Essential Elements for Strings 2000, Book 1 Cello; A Comprehensive String Method. 
• One 1-inch, three-ring binder to hold materials that are passed out in class with clear insert pocket on front and side. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide replacement for lost materials.

The following is recommended, but not required:

• Dabczynski, Andrew. String Explorer; An Explorer’s Guide to Teaching Strings, Teacher’s Manual, Book 1, Alfred.
• D. Hamman and R. Gillespie, Strategies for Teaching Strings, Oxford Pub.
• Selim Giray. String Methods for Beginners (Routledge, March 2020). 
• Michael Hopkins String Pedagogy Notebook (www.stringtechnique.com)
• www.orchestreatche.net
• Mimi Zweig and her String Pedagogy: https://www.connollymusic.com/string-pedagogy-ty
GRADING POLICY & COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Each student’s grade will be based on attendance, assignments, quizzes, performance evaluations, and teaching evaluations.

All three Quizzes are listed in your booklet, but you will be reminded 1 class ahead of time.

- Quiz 1 will cover the material of week 1-2 from your booklet.
- Quiz 2 will cover the material of week 1-4 from your booklet.
- Quiz 3 will cover the material of week 1-6 from your booklet.

There may be outside-of-class assignments the nature of which will be determined based on your instrument concentration as a music major.

There will be 3 quizzes, 3-4 assignments, a playing test and a teaching test. Teaching exam will be administered during the 8-week period. The student will have to create a Lesson Plan and following it, the student will demonstrate teaching choosing a component of string pedagogy studied in class this semester to the rest of the class.
Grades may be viewed in D2L.

EVALUATION:
A: 90-100,  B: 80-89,  C: 70-79,  D: 60-69  F: 0-59

Folder with all handouts organized by section (MUSI 3137.001 & .002) will be evaluated in the end of the semester. For missing or disorganized folder 5 points will be deducted from Final Grade!

Assignments: 5%
Quizzes: 30%
Playing Exams: 7.5%
Teaching Test: 7.5%
Upper Strings with Ms. Nabb: 50%

Playing exam: a) demonstrate knowledge on proper instrument and bow hold, b) how to play D major scale, c) how to tune the cello/bass with the use of natural harmonics, d) demonstrated knowledge for good sound, posture and bow hold by playing the French Folk Song (106).
MENTAL HEALTH
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support student’s mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services • www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet) • 936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic • www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202 • 936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

COURSE CALENDAR:

The course requires out-of-class work from the students, and the minimum time requirement for that work is 4 hours a week.
Different handouts will often be passed in this class. Individual and/or group assignments, as well as instrumental techniques discussed in class will require the student to do out-of-class work independently, or in groups.

Week 1-8 with Dr. Raychev/Ms. Madrid
Week 9-16 with Ms. Madrid/Dr. Raychev
The course booklet will serve as our weekly schedule.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Each student must submit any absence request at least one week in advance, except for emergencies, by e-mailing the instructor. In the event of an absence, the student should arrange for a meeting with the instructor to discuss the reason for the absence. 2 unexcused class absences – maximum semester grade of a B. 3 unexcused class absences – maximum semester grade of a C.
unexcused class absences – F. Regarding excused absences: An excused absence is an absence discussed and/or arranged with the instructor prior to the class meeting. As well, any sickness or family emergency will be excused as long as documentation is provided and communication is present. Final determination of whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused is completely left up to the instructor. 2 tardies equal 1 unexcused absence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.
Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Please read the complete policy at: https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf

Students are required to observe the University’s Academic Honor Code; any case of academic dishonesty will be dealt severely.

Signing for somebody else is considered plagiarism. The student who was absent as well the student who forged the signature will both receive unexcused absences for the day, and will both be reported to the Early Alert System.

If you forget to sign, or sign in place for somebody else by mistake, I will consider you absent for the day, due to the fact that your space will be left empty.

**WITHHELD GRADES**

*Semester Grades Policy (A-54)*

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS
will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert System. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

As your instructor for MUS 140, I expect you to conduct yourselves as adults and to demonstrate respect for your classmates and for your instructor at all times. Therefore, the following behaviors will not be tolerated in class. If you participate in these behaviors you may be asked to leave class, and points may be deducted from your final course grade!

Cellular Telephones (READ THIS TWICE, PLEASE):

There are NO cell phones permitted to be within your reach or within your sight and/or within sight of your instructor during this class. This class requires your engagement, and all use of cell phones serves detract from that engagement. Additionally, your phone should be not only put away in your bag, but set on “silent” (NOTE: vibrate is NOT silent). If your phone is out and/or in sight of your instructor or of other students, you will be asked to put it away, and you will lose 2 points off of your FINAL course grade. Should your phone ring/vibrate during class, you will consider yourself dismissed for the day. You are to silence it immediately, and quietly leave the class session. You will be counted absent for the session. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in more stringent disciplinary action.

This policy may be lifted on specific occasions at the discretion of the instructor in order to engage cellular phones in the active learning process. You will be informed if this takes place. Otherwise, the policy remains in effect.

Laptops and Tablet computers:

Electronic devices, while useful, also have the potential to distract you from your engagement in class. If you choose to use any electronic device to take course notes, you will be subject to observation. If, at any point, you are found to be working on any application or project other than your course notes, or your device causes a noise distraction during class, you will be dismissed and counted absent for
the class session. If your instructor determines that you are too distracted by your electronic device, you may be asked not to bring it to class, and to take paper notes instead. If you use a laptop computer to take notes, please assure that your typing and clicking will not disturb those seated around you.

**Inattentive behaviors:**
Talking and whispering during class will not be tolerated. If you are asked more than once to stop talking or whispering during class you may be asked to leave class and you will be counted absent for the class session. Sleeping during class is unacceptable and will be treated as absence. I will count any student sleeping as absent on course records. If you sleep during class you will not be allowed to take a quiz if one is offered. I expect you to remain in class for the entire fifty-minute period, leaving only in the event of an emergency. I expect you to attend to personal needs, such as buying food, speaking with professors, getting drinks of water, or utilizing restroom facilities, either before or after class so that you do not have reason to arrive late or leave during class. Leaving class or entering late disrupts the learning process. Eating and drinking during class is disturbing to others and should be avoided. These ground rules are designed to provide an atmosphere conducive to active learning.

- If a disruptive student is asked to leave class, an unexcused absence will be applied to that student and the student will be reported to the Early Alert SSC system.
- If a disruptive student is asked to leave the class a second time, he or she will be reported to the Early Alert SSC system and the final grade in the course will be dropped a letter.
- If a disruptive student is asked to leave the class a third time, he or she will be reported to the Early Alert SSC system and the final grade will be dropped two letters.

**Additional work for improving a grade will NOT be allowed in this course. All supporting efforts for achieving extra points are already integrated in the course work.**

**Course Grades are FINAL. No negotiations will be made once Final Grades are posted!**

**Due times are important. Please follow them! I have no moral obligations to extend deadlines because a student failed to comply with what is expected in the class!**

- Be attentive in class
- Take notes
- Research the topics discussed in class
- Ask a string player for help (return the favor to others)
- Check out a string instrument and practice the material discussed in class.
We will be trying practice techniques in class on both cello and bass. However, we will NOT be using class time for individual practice. It is the student’s responsibility to spend time studying the class material and to practice the string instruments outside the classroom!

**To check out instruments:**

- ✓ Talk to a GA working in the orchestra library to check out cello or bass
- ✓ You will need your ID
- ✓ Instruments may NOT leave the music building
- ✓ Instruments must be checked in the same day they were checked out! Note, leaving an instrument in a classroom is NOT returning it!!
- ✓ Checking an instrument out and in will require your signature.
- ✓ The student who has checked out an instrument is responsible for ANY damages caused to the instrument while in use! Treat the string instruments like you would treat a small child.
- ✓ Many disinfectants are alcohol based, which is harmful for the varnish of a string instrument. **Do NOT** use any disinfectant products on a string instrument. Wash your hands before and after handling a string instrument!

I reserve the rights to make minor adjustments to the syllabus if necessary. If that happens you will be notified by an announcement on D2L.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this class. The world of music is fascinating – the world that we all live in is music.

    Dr. Evgeni Raychev