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MUSC 300: Instrument Performance: Flute
Course Syllabus
Spring 2024

Instructor: Chiara Giommetti

Credits: 1

Contact Hours: 15

Type of Course: Music performance

Prerequisites: Students are assigned exercises and tasks of varying difficulty based on a progressive skills evaluation before the beginning of and during the semester.

Class Meetings: TBA

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course is designed for flutists of any level who wish to enhance their technical and performance skills. The program will include a technical study tailored to each student's needs. Additionally, the instrument's repertoire will be explored from both a historical and performance perspective. The course aims to improve the students' performance abilities and broaden their musical knowledge. Advanced flutists have the opportunity to delve into the orchestral repertoire for flute and piccolo.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced flute technique, including tone production, articulation, and finger dexterity.
- Perform a diverse repertoire of solo and ensemble pieces spanning different genres and styles.
- Interpret and express musical ideas with a high level of artistry, phrasing, and dynamics.
- Develop effective practice strategies for refining technical skills and overcoming performance challenges.
- Collaborate with other musicians in chamber ensembles and explore ensemble repertoire.
- Showcase confidence and stage presence through solo and ensemble performances.
- Analyze and critique performances, both their own and others', with a discerning ear.

Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the instructor.

Assessment

Attendance	10%
Participation & Homework	45%
Final Recital	45%

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	Superior

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C+	77% - 79%	
C	73% - 76%	Satisfactory
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	
D	63% - 66%	Low Pass
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Course Requirements

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is an essential part of this course. You are allowed 1 unexcused absence without penalty, per Institute policy. If you attend all the other meetings, you will receive 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

Participation & Homework (45%)

Students are required to participate actively in class and to demonstrate a consistent effort to develop their performance skills. Being on time to each appointment, adopting respectful behavior, and having a positive attitude towards the instructor are essential.

Students will be assigned homework regularly. They should prepare all assigned materials for each lesson with a demonstrated improvement from the previous lesson. Students should allow themselves adequate time between their previous engagement and a lesson to warm up and concentrate on the music that they will be performing at the lesson.

Final Recital (45%)

The final recital will be either a private or public event, held in front of a commission of instructors and possibly an audience. Students will play from a selection of music assignments based on various materials presented throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected and mandatory for classroom times and co-curricular activities. All students are allowed 1 unexcused absence, which does not need to be justified. It is the student's responsibility to keep it in case of real necessity, i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class.

More than 1 absence will affect your final grade by 2% per absence up to a maximum of 10%. Excessive unexcused absences may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important.

Legitimate reasons for an excused absence or tardiness include: death in immediate family, religious observances, illness or injury, local inclement weather, medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled.

Absences relating to illness may be excused by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided.

Students who request an approved absence to observe a religious holiday must submit a formal request to the Institute's Director within one week after the add/drop period when course schedules, including any field trips, are finalized. No exceptions will be made after this deadline.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Tardiness Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually. Any student arriving up to 15 minutes late or leaving up to 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled class end time will be marked as tardy. Each incident of tardiness (late arrivals to or early departures from class) is 0.5% off the final grade. However, should a student arrive more than 15 minutes late or depart more than 15 minutes before the conclusion of the class, it will be recorded as an absence.

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Students are also expected to remain in class during the time of instruction except for a reasonable amount of time to use the restroom. Students who leave class and do not return during the class session will receive an unexcused absence or late penalty.

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off before the beginning of each class.

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Course Schedule

Week 1

Evaluation of the level and selection of the repertoire
Review and refine basic flute techniques

Week 2

Focus on tone quality, intonation, and embouchure development

Week 3

Explore the principles of musical interpretation and phrasing

Week 4

In-depth exploration of the historical periods of the flute, changes in the instrument, and repertoire evolution over the centuries

Week 5

Application of modern techniques in sound study

Week 6

Selection of solo repertoire from various periods and styles

SEMESTER BREAK

Week 7

Work on intonation, and balance

Week 8

Addressing aspects related to public performance, stage anxiety, and personal insecurities

Week 9

Perform solo and ensemble pieces in class for constructive feedback.

Week 10

Orchestral repertoire, studying selected passages for flute and piccolo

Week 11

Polish technical aspects, musical expression, and stage presence

Week 12

Practice session and rehearsal

Week 13

Final exam