



MUSC 300: Instrumental Performance: Violin

Course Syllabus

Disclaimer: Instrumental Performance courses are ideal for students who would like to develop their performing skills in a wide variety of instruments (all instruments of the violin family, brass instruments, piano, guitar, percussion instruments, and more) while studying abroad. This syllabus is designed for the instrument indicated in the subtitle.

Instructor: Cecilia Rossi

Credits: 1

Type of Course: Music performance course

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

Class Meetings: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course aims to develop the students' violin technique and the knowledge of a variety of classic works, including masterpieces of the violin traditional repertoire. Students will master the violin technique dealing with various pieces, selected to work on particular aspects such as sound quality and power, bowings and interpretation. For this purpose the students will study composers from different periods, from Classicism to Romanticism and early Twentieth Century: Haydn, Sarasate, Ysaÿe.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Select an appropriate repertoire
- Choose suitable fingerings, finding various solutions according to the necessities
- Master main bowing techniques
- Interpret compositions according to their original style

Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the instructor.

Assessment

Participation & Homework 35%

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Mid-Term Exam	30%
Final Recital	35%

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%	Superior
B-	80% - 82%	
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

Participation & Homework (35%)

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.

Mid-Term Exam (30%)

Students will perform a selection of music assignments in front of a commission of instructors based on the materials presented during the first half of the semester.

Final Recital (35%)

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

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Students are allowed **two “free” absences**, which do not need to be justified. **It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class).** Each

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additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students' grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

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.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important for student performance in class. Missing a mandatory field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to the professor and Umbra Academic Director in a timely manner, will lower students' final grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

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.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week 1

Evaluation of the level and selection of the repertoire.

Week 2

Study of bow technique on exercises. Training on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud” by E. Ysaÿe.

Week 3

Work on vibrato technique. Work on “Zigeunerweisen” by P. de Sarasate.

Week 4

Work on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud” by E. Ysaÿe and on “Zigeunerweisen” by P. de Sarasate. Bow exercises. Work on fingerings, sound power and neatness.

Week 5

Work on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud” by E. Ysaÿe and on “Zigeunerweisen” by P. de Sarasate. Work on quality of sound and interpretation.

Week 6

Work on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud” by E. Ysaÿe and on “Zigeunerweisen” by P. de Sarasate. Work on interpretation.

Week 7

MID-TERM EXAM

SEMESTER BREAK

Week 8

Work on trio in E flat major Hob. XV:36 by F. J. Haydn, bowings and fingerings.

Week 9

Work on trio in E flat major Hob. XV:36 by F. J. Haydn. Work on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud” by E. Ysaÿe.

Week 10

Work on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud’” by E. Ysaÿe and on trio in E flat major Hob. XV:36 by F. J. Haydn.

Week 11

Work on “Sonata per violino solo op. 27 n.2 'Jacques Thibaud’” by E. Ysaÿe, “Zigeunerweisen” by P. de Sarasate and on trio in E flat major Hob. XV:36 by F. J. Haydn. Work on interpretation.

Week 12

Practice session and rehearsal with piano and cello in preparation for final recital.

Week 13

Practice session and rehearsal with piano and cello in preparation for final recital.

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

The Final Exam and Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester