

**String Instruments Class**  
**MUSC 3181**  
**Midwestern State University, Fall 2019**  
**MW: 8:00 – 8:50 AM**

Instructor: Amanda Hernandez

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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required Text and Materials:**

- Essential Elements for Strings: Teacher Manual Book 1 by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes  
ISBN: 0634038168
- Three-ring binder
- 5 Tabs: String Instruments, Positioning, Tone, Pedagogical Resources, Advanced Techniques

**General Objectives:**

- To prepare each student with the skills and knowledge necessary to confidently teach stringed instruments at the beginning level as would normally be encountered in school settings.
- To compile a notebook that can serve as a professional resource.
- To assist each student in attaining a basic level of performance on one string instrument and introductory knowledge of the others.
- Emphasis will be placed on playing ability and pedagogical diagnostic techniques.

**Topics, discussions, and handouts will address:**

- Anatomy of string instruments
- Instrument care
- Instrument sizing for young students
- Proper posture and instrument set up
- Bow hold
- Tone production
- Left hand technique and fingerboard geography
- Tuning
- Traditional Methods vs. Suzuki Method
- String terminology
- Overview of advanced string technique

## Policies:

1. If you are having trouble with any aspect of this course, please see the instructor as soon as possible.
2. Professional, adult behavior and etiquette is expected. Be on time, prepared, and ready for work. **You should be unpacked and ready to play with your stand and chair at the start of class.** Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. Examples may include routinely entering class late or departing early, eating, and the use of cellular telephones, text messaging, computers, or other electronic devices. In the case of inappropriate behavior, the student involved will be asked to leave and this will count as an unexcused absence from class.
3. Attendance is expected at each class meeting as noted in the syllabus. **Students are allowed 2 absences** (i.e., skipping class). **5 percentage points will be deducted from the student's semester grade for each unexcused absence beyond the 2 allowable absences** (e.g. three absences and a 93% final grade = 88%, four absences and a 93% final grade = 83%,). **You must have all materials (instrument, book, and notebook) with you to be considered present.**
4. Assignments or tests that are missed cannot be made up. The only exception to this is if an absence is "excused" with a Provost's excuse from the university.
5. Chronic tardiness is disruptive to the class and is therefore unacceptable. If a student arrives more than 20 minutes late, they will be considered absent. The door may be locked if tardiness becomes a disruptive issue.

## Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment which provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. In accordance with state and federal law, MSU provides academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center (phone 940-397-4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

## Campus Carry:

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

**Student Privacy:**

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss a students' academic progress or other matters with his/her parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

**Social Justice:**

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Students Expectations/Conduct:**

Students are required to participate in all class activities. Students are to practice weekly assignments, prepare questions, and prepare to answer questions regarding assigned course material. Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction or disruption. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class.

<b>Grading Summary</b>	
<b>Participation</b>	20%
<b>Playing Quizzes</b>	20%
<b>Midterm</b>	20%
<b>Teaching Demonstration</b>	20%
<b>Open-Notebook Test 1</b>	10%
<b>Open-Notebook Test 2</b>	10%

<b>Grading</b>	<b>Scale</b>
<b>A</b>	90-100%
<b>B+</b>	87-90%
<b>B</b>	80-87%
<b>C+</b>	77-80%
<b>C</b>	70-77%
<b>D+</b>	67-70%
<b>D</b>	60-67%
<b>F</b>	Below 60%

## **CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

(subject to change)

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>August 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup></b>
	Syllabus, Instrument Checkout, Parts of Instrument, Instrument Care, Instrument Purchase & Rental, Instrument Sizing, Posture, Position  <b>Purchase textbook – required for class by September 9.</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>September 4<sup>th</sup> (No class on September 2nd)</b>
	Right Hand Set-Up
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>September 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup></b>
	Twinkle Variation Rhythms, Open Strings, Tone Fundamentals Read and play through EE pp. 40 – 45  <b>Playing Quiz 1: Bow hold on primary instrument</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>September 16 and 18</b>
	String Instrument Maintenance, Tuning, Left Hand Set-Up Read and play through EE pp. 46 – 63  <b>Playing Quiz 2: 8 Consecutive Mississippi Stop Stops on Open A</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup></b>
	Fingerboard Geography & Intonation, Shifting, D Major Scale (plucked) Read and play through EE pp. 64 – 74  <b>Playing Quiz 3: Tune primary instrument</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
	Putting both hands together, Pre-Twinkle Songs, Twinkle Variation A Read and play through EE pp. 75 – 101
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>October 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup></b>
	Rehearsal Techniques & Practice Codes Read and play through EE pp. 102 – 117.  <b>Playing Quiz 4: D Major Scale, Mississippi Stop Stop Rhythm</b>

<b>Week 8</b>	<b>October 14th and 16th</b>
	Read and play through EE pp. 117-129
	<b>Open-Notebook Test 1: October 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>October 21st and 23rd</b>
	<b>Midterm Test on Primary Instrument (20% Total)</b>
	October 21 <sup>st</sup> : 3-Min Teaching Segment, teach instrument position to peer (10%) October 23 <sup>rd</sup> : Performance, Buckeye Salute & Twinkle Var A in D Major (10%)
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>October 28th and 30th</b>
	Traditional vs. Suzuki Method, Overview of Beginner Strings: Year One EE pp. 130 – 150. G string, ties, slurs, G Major Scale.
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>November 4th and 6th</b>
	Lesson Planning, Developing Pulse & Music Reading Skills, Practice Charts EE pp. 151 – 185. Changing finger patterns (low 2), slurring 3 notes, changing keys, staccato, C Major Scale.
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>November 11th and 13th</b>
	Vibrato Development & Pedagogy, Advanced Bow Strokes & Additional Left-Hand Techniques EE pp. 186 – 215. C string, E string, hooked bows, dynamics
	<b>Playing Quiz 5: French Folk Song &amp; G Major Scale</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>November 18th and 20th</b>
	Review and Catch-Up
	<b>Open-Notebook Test 2 (10%): November 20th</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>November 25th (No class on November 27th)</b>
	Teaching Demonstrations: 15 Minute Lessons
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>December 2nd and 4th</b>
	Teaching Demonstrations: 15 Minute Lessons (20%)