

Applied Cello

AMUS 3341/3342, AMUS 3351/3352, AMUS 3361/3362, AMUS
3371/3372

(All levels, 1000s, 2000s, 3000s, 4000s)

Midwestern State University; Spring 2020

Time TBD; FA C116A

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Course Objectives

- To develop technical, musical, and performance skills
- To learn repertoire for the instrument at an ability-appropriate level
- To learn/apply musical analysis & critical thinking in order to practice effectively
- To demonstrate knowledge and musicianship through performance

Course Description

Students develop musicianship and performance skills through individual applied lessons on their instrument. Lessons will cover general concepts of musicianship such as rhythm, intonation, and phrasing, as well as topics unique to cello study. Cello-specific topics may include tone production, articulation, conventional bowing rules, shifting technique, bow hand position and flexibility, left hand position and dexterity, and other physical technique considerations.

Required Materials

- Notebook
- Sheet music, etudes, and other materials as assigned.

Course Content and Procedures

Student Expectations:

Daily practice of 2-4 hours is suggested to complete all assignments at a high performance standard for the next lesson. Students are expected to prepare all assigned material weekly.

Lesson Material

Weekly lesson material may include but is not limited to:

- Scales
- Etudes/Technical Exercises
- Orchestra Repertoire/Excerpts
- Sight Reading
- Solo (minimum one per semester – two is suggested for performance majors)

Jury Exams

Juries are required of all students taking lessons for credit during the Fall and Spring semesters, except those who have performed a university recital during that semester. The jury will occur during the exam period each semester and will be played for the faculty. Each student will perform materials prepared during that semester of study, which may include scales, etudes, excerpts, and solo, or any combination of the four.

Grading

Grades are based on weekly improvement and mastery of the skills being addressed, as well as receptiveness to the instructor's suggestions. Developing and demonstrating correct rhythms, pitch, fingerings and bowings are a basic requirement of lesson preparation. Beyond that, students must dedicate much attention to technical recommendations and playing music in a stylistically appropriate and expressive manner. Listening to professional performances/recordings for musical ideas should be used liberally.

- A lesson earns the grade of 'A' if: There is evidence of excellent preparation. All assigned materials are played at a highly musical and technical level; commensurate with the student's abilities.
- A lesson will be given the grade of 'B' if: The assigned material has been well prepared but displays musical and technical flaws. Not at true performance level.
- A lesson will be given the grade of 'C' if: Some preparation is evident. Many technical and musical flaws exist. Cannot get through assigned materials without several attempts.
- A lesson will be given the grade of 'D' if: Little evident preparation.
- A lesson will be given the grade of 'F' if: Failure to show up. No evidence of preparation.

Attendance & Tardy Policy

Your attendance in this course is critical and much of your grade will depend on your performance in class. Excused absences from lessons are considered on an individual basis. Advance notice must be given for an absence to be considered excused. Excused lessons may or may not be rescheduled depending on the instructors' schedule. Unexcused missed lessons are not rescheduled. Two unexcused missed lessons will result in an "F" for the semester. Unprepared students may be released from their lesson with the lesson counting as an absence.

Repertoire

Repertoire will be decided by the instructor, with thought to the learning needs of the student. The student may make suggestions or preferences known, but the instructor has the final say in what should be studied for grade.

Accompanist Information

Due to the recital attendance and jury requirements, all students must secure the services of an accompanist, get piano parts to them, and coordinate rehearsals promptly. Accompanists need to be available for recitals, master classes and juries in which the student performs. If it fits the accompanist and instructor's schedule and does not conflict with courses the student is enrolled in, every attempt must be made to ensure the accompanist can attend at least two lessons or extra rehearsals with the instructor present. A recording of the rehearsal may be suitable as a substitute, but please clear this in advance.

COVID-19 Provisions and Protocols

Delivery Method – The intention of the class is to meet face-to-face at the approved times and days and via Zoom for those individuals that have been approved to attend that way or if circumstances demand it.

Vaccinations and Face Coverings – Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Flexibility and Adaptability – The current circumstances may require unanticipated adjustments to the class or syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to adjust or cancel the topic schedule, grading ranges, assignments, reports, projects, exams, assignment dates, due dates, and others as the course progresses and to modify, extend, or correct the present syllabus by providing students with a three days' notice or shorter in case of emergencies.

Cleaning Protocols for Class – Each student will be responsible for cleaning their own workstation before class by using the university-provided E23 sprays and paper towels. In addition, students should wash their hands before and after class. Each student is responsible for obtaining, carrying, and using a personal bottle of hand sanitizer for personal use.

Seating Arrangement – The classroom will be fitted with seating to accommodate social distancing during class. As a precaution against Covid-19, social distancing is always recommended.

What do I do if I am not feeling well, if I had a close contact with Coronavirus, or if I test positive? – Complete the student reporting form in the MSU Safety app (found in the Apple App Store and Google Play on Android) or the [COVID-19 Reporting Form for Students](#) online. Notify the instructor that you will be absent from class, and let me know if you can attend via Zoom. Do not return to class until a health care practitioner has indicated that you can do so.

Resources – The University has several resource pages on Coronavirus that all students need to review: [MSU Texas Return to Campus](#).

Academic Dishonesty and Student Honor Creed

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonesty act will be sanctioned appropriately. Enrollment in this class constitutes an acceptance to adhere to the Student Honor Creed and all other student conduct policies outlined in the university Student Handbook.

[MSU Texas Student Honor Creed](#)
[2019-2020 MSU Texas Student Handbook](#)

Conduct Statement

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to and including a failing grade (F). In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU Texas policies.

Disability Statement and Special Needs

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in room 168 of the Clark Student Center or at (940) 397-4140.

Privacy Statement

MSU Texas adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Accordingly, and for the purposes of this class, the instructor is limited

in his ability to discuss or release student's academic progress records and information to outside parties, and only as permitted by law.

Safe Zones Statement

The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Campus Carry Statement

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: [Campus Carry](#)

Contacting Your Instructor

All instructors in the Department have voicemail in their offices and MWSU email addresses. Make sure you add your instructor's phone number and email address to both your email and cellphone list of contacts.

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any point in the semester.