**Midwestern State University**

**Applied Violin**

**AMUS 1341/1342, AMUS 2341/2342, AMUS 3341/3342, AMUS 4341/4342**

Instructor: Ms. Amanda Hernandez

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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Spring 2021 Syllabus**

**Required Materials:**

* An instrument and bow
  + N.B. The student is responsible for ensuring that their instrument is regularly maintained by a luthier as needs arise – this includes bow rehairs, bow regrips, sound post adjustments, open seam repairs, etc.
* All the necessary materials for the instrument’s use and care – this includes rosin, shoulder rest, mute, extra strings, peg dope, chin rest adjuster, etc.
* Assigned music
* Lessons notebook
* A tuner and **loud** metronome
* Pencils

**Course Description:**

Students will develop violin technique, musicianship, practice methods, and performance skills through individual 50-minute weekly lessons. Students will attend studio class (as scheduled), guest artist and faculty recitals, and masterclasses as assigned by the instructor. Students will practice every day, for a minimum amount of time determined by their credit enrollment. Over the course of the semester, the student will move through stages of mastering a particular set of repertoire and technical study appropriate for their level, with the goal of performing that repertoire. Each semester, in consultation with the instructor and in compliance with the requirements of the music department, music majors will perform either a jury or a degree recital.

**Course Objectives:**

1. The student will master a variety of practice techniques, leading to an ability to perform with competence on their chosen instrument.
2. The student will develop their physical technique, resulting in improved dexterity, intonation, and tone production.
3. The student will be able to perform scales commiserate with their rate of development.
4. The student will learn repertoire for the instrument at an ability-appropriate level.
5. The student will increase their level of sightreading skills.
6. The student will gain experience and comfort in a live performance setting.
7. The student will demonstrate musicianship and knowledge through performance.
8. The student will be exposed to violin literature.

**Attendance Policy:**

Individual lesson times will be determined in consultation with the instructor. Students are expected to attend all lessons at their regularly scheduled weekly lesson time. However, **each student will be allowed one “free” absence of a private lesson without any reason necessary so long as the instructor is notified in advance**. For the purposes of this course, advance notice is defined as a minimum of 24 hours before the scheduled lesson time. Exceptions to this rule are family emergencies and sudden illness. In extreme circumstances, additional excused absences may be considered at the instructor’s discretion. However, be certain that any lessons missed for **any** reason without notifying the instructor before the scheduled lesson time will figure as an “F” for the week.

Two unexcused missed lessons may result in the student being dropped from the course.

Unprepared students may be released early from their lesson with the lesson counting as an unexcused absence.

In the event that the instructor has a performance obligation or a teaching clinic that conflicts with a student’s lesson time, the instructor will inform the student in advance and arrange an alternate lesson time.

Unless otherwise discussed, all lessons will be held in person in the Fain Fine Arts Building in Room C117A. In the event of illness or quarantine, for either the student or the instructor, lessons will be conducted via Zoom (accessible through D2L) at the regularly scheduled lesson time, unless either party is not well enough to meet remotely. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor ***as soon as possible*** in the event that remote instruction is required. Remote instruction is expressly available for the purpose of mitigating the risk of exposure and should not be requested for any other reason (e.g., vacation, oversleeping, etc.).

**Grading & Student Expectations:**

Applied lessons are a course, the same as any other college course, for which students receive academic credit.

* Homework consists of the assigned musical material, technical exercises, and listening assignments given by the instructor in each weekly lesson.
* Homework is graded by the instructor based on the student’s improvement and mastery of the assigned material as demonstrated by their performance in each lesson.
* Mastery is achieved by **daily practice**. Unless you are consistently practicing more than 6 hours a day there is no maximum amount of time you should be practicing. Minimum requirements are as follows:
  + Music Performance Majors: 4-5 hrs. of daily practice
  + Music Education Majors: 2-3 hrs. of daily practice
  + Music Minors & Non-Majors: 1-2 hrs. of daily practice
* N.B. Multiple hours practiced back-to-back should be arranged as 50 minute periods with a 10 minute break. These 50 minute periods may be recorded as a complete hour. Hours practiced singly should be real 60 minute hours. Also, remember that if you plan wisely you can get a lot accomplished in a 10-15 minute practice session.

Final grades will be determined by lesson preparation, overall improvement, attendance (as discussed above), and performances in recitals and masterclasses (when applicable). For music majors, grades on semester juries will factor greatly into the overall semester grade.

**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.