

Course Outline

2885R – Section 001 Group String Instruction: Violin/Viola

Western University Don Wright Faculty of Music

Fall Term 2021

Section 001: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30-9:30am, MB 241

Instructor Information

Nic Carlucci, Lecturer, Violin + Instructor, Strings I (Violin/Viola)

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Course Description

In this course, students will work towards developing the skills and knowledge that will enable them to administrate and successfully teach public school string classes, of all levels. Throughout the course, students will acquire a basic understanding of the physicality of the violin/viola, as well as acquire the resources to further their study of violin/viola technique.

Learning Objectives

To gain practical experience playing non-major instruments (violin and viola).

To demonstrate knowledge of pedagogical objectives for beginning through advanced string classes.

To demonstrate knowledge of string rehearsal techniques, assessment, and practice strategies.

To demonstrate an understanding of guidelines for choosing string music.

To gain knowledge of the selection, care, and maintenance of string instruments.

To understand how to build a school orchestra program, including how to advocate, recruit, and retain students.

Required Materials

Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 – Teachers Manual (pdf available for download on OWL)

https://www.amazon.ca/Essential-Elements-Strings-Book-Violin/dp/0634038176/ref=sr_1_1?crid=G8DVCJQ70ZND&keywords=essential+elements+for+strings+violin&qid=1576598087&srefix=essential+elements+for%2Caps%2C149&sr=8-1

Highly Recommended Materials

Hamann, D., & Gillespie, R. (2013). *Strategies for Teaching Strings: Building a Successful String and Orchestra Program*. New York: Oxford University Press.

https://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Strategies+for+Teaching+Strings

Online Resource: *StringPedagogy.com* (free sign-up for membership).

Instruments are available for both string sections. Please note that instrument sign-outs will be held in TC 313. Please reach out to Len Ingrao lingrao@uwo.ca for pickup times. You are responsible for the care and maintenance of the instruments. Please inform the instructor immediately if anything is broken or not in proper working condition.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation in lectures, which will meet weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays (8:30am-9:30am in MB 241).

Quiz Assessments: To be completed periodically throughout the semester to test theoretical and practical knowledge pertaining to the violin and viola. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the various pedagogical concepts, scales, and technical/musical skills addressed throughout the course.

In-Class Teaching Evaluation: Students will spend 10-15 minutes teaching and rehearsing a technical element with the class. **Students will submit a lesson plan the day of the evaluation, and a reflection on their teaching, due the class after the evaluation.**

Final Playing Test: Students will be required to play a final playing test that involves several technical elements, as well as one short piece (provided by the instructor) (on either violin or viola).

Final ePortfolio: The Portfolio will serve as your reference source when students are employed as string educators. It should include class notes, handouts, projects, as well as a 2-4 page outline of rehearsal techniques, warm-ups, bowing skills, left hand skills, and aural skills. Students are welcome to include any other information that was found useful within the class. Portfolios should include a table of contents and be organized into sections. Portfolios will be **due by the final class (April 2nd, 2020)**. Late portfolios will not be accepted.

University Policies

- i) Course Prerequisites: None. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.
- ii) Grading scale: A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.
- iii) Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:
 - for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
 - absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,

- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

iv) Academic Consideration for Missing Work: In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

v) Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.

vii) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or

psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar. <http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) Contingency Plan: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

x) Evaluation Policy Exemption: This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.”

xi) Electronic Devices in Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

xii) Plagiarism Detection Software Usage: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Important dates 2021:

Labour Day Sept. 6

First Term Wed. Sept. 7- Wed. Dec. 8

Thanksgiving Monday (Stat Holiday) Oct. 11

Autumn Convocation Oct. 20-22

Fall Reading Week (no UG Classes) Nov. 1-7

Last day to drop first-term half courses Nov. 12

Last day to drop full-year courses Nov. 30

Last day of first-term classes Dec. 8

Study Day Dec. 9

Midyear Exam Period Dec. 10-21

Holiday (University Closed) Dec. 23-Jan. 2

Participation and Attendance: Your mark will reflect attendance, participation in discussions and class activities, preparation, practice habits, learning attitudes. Participation and attendance are 10% of your grade. Observation marks will be given on a daily basis to assist with this part of the evaluation.

An unexcused absence will result in a loss of 2 marks from the attendance component of your overall evaluation (i.e., one unexcused absence equals 2 out of 10). Failure to appear for a scheduled

exam session (without documented medical evidence) will result in a mark of zero for that test/exam. Students with **4 or more unexcused absences** will be referred to the Chair of the Department and will be in jeopardy of failing the course. Absences will be excused only if:

- 1) Student is involved in official UWO business that has been approved by the chair or the instructor
- 2) Documented family issue
- 3) Documented family or personal illness

Tardiness: Arriving late for two classes is equivalent to one unexcused absence.

Absences from Tests and Assignments: For absences from tests and assignments (e.g., Quizzes and Final Playing Test) with medical documentation, a make-up test may be scheduled or some other method of evaluation determined in consultation with the student. Without medical documentation, a mark of zero will be assigned.

Grading

Grading will be based on the successful completion of all course requirements, which include the following:

Attendance (10%)

Quizzes (30%)

Quiz No. 1 (10%)

On the designated date, students will be asked to complete a written quiz, naming the parts of the instrument, care, and maintenance questions. A practical component will involve plucking scale selections from C major, G major, A major (2 octave) or D major (1 octave) scales.

Quiz No. 2 (10%)

On the designated date, students will be asked to pluck a study from Essential Elements No. 2-36 (chosen by the instructor). Students will then be asked to bow a line of rhythm, (chosen by the instructor), in the upper half of the bow, with all of the technical elements discussed in class functioning correctly.

Quiz No. 3 (10%)

On the designated date, students will be asked to showcase basic shifting, and a demonstration of bow strokes learned in class. The quiz will also include sight reading from any passage (chosen by the instructor) from Essential Elements up to No. 155.

In-Class Teaching Evaluation (25%)

Students will have 15-20 minutes of class time to teach a technical element pertaining to the violin/viola to the class. Students will pick a piece that uses the technical element to then rehearse it in-context.

A lesson plan will be submitted (on the designated teaching date), outlining how the student plans on conducting their lesson. **A reflection (answering provided questions) will be due the following class**, outlining the things that went well, and ways the lesson could have been improved.

Students will be assessed based on their thoroughness of understanding of the topic, their delivery, pacing, time management, and rehearsal techniques, as they pertain to the challenges presented throughout the rehearsal.

Final Playing Test (20%)

Technical Component: on either violin or viola (student chooses)

Two octave A major scale - 4 note slurs

Two octave A minor arpeggio - single notes

Two octave D major scale - shift as provided, 2 note slurs

One octave scale of your choice for each technical element (can be the same for all technical elements) (you can choose how many notes per stroke)

- i. Martele
- ii. Detache
- iii. Spiccato

Pieces: one selection from the two provided by the instructor

Final Semester ePortfolio (15%)

The Semester ePortfolio will serve as your reference resource when you are employed as a string teacher. It should include your class notes, handouts, projects, as well as a 2-4 page outline of rehearsal techniques, warm-ups, bowing skills, left hand skills, and aural skills, and any other information you found useful within the class. Portfolios should include a table of contents and be organized into sections. Portfolios will be due by the final class (April 2nd, 2020). Late portfolios will not be accepted.

The ePortfolio must be submitted electronically and contain:

Table of Contents
 Class Handouts
 Written Assignments
 Rehearsal Outline
 Miscellaneous

**ePortfolios should include a table of contents and be organized into sections.
 Late portfolios will not be accepted.**

Grading summary:

Attendance	(10%)
Quizzes	(30%)
Final In-Class Teaching Evaluation	(25%)
Final Playing Test	(20%)
Final ePortfolio	(15%)

Total 100 %