*Colorado State University*

*School of Liberal Arts*

*Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance*

*String Techniques for the Music Educator*

***Fall 2016***

***MU252C (2 Credits)***

***T/Th 11:00am-11:50am, UCA 204***

**Instructor Information:**

**Bob Kreutz**

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Office and Hours: 303A, Hours: 10:20-11:00 am, Tuesday and Thursday, or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course will prepare music education students to teach the basic stringed instrument techniques to beginning and intermediate students. Emphasis will be placed upon learning to play one upper pitched stringed instrument (violin or viola) and one lower pitched stringed instrument (cello or bass), with a mention toward the harp. On these instruments, students will learn skills such as proper instrument posture, tuning, basic and intermediate fingering patterns, bow use and distribution, vibrato, and other skills. Students will study the instruments individually, in small ensemble, and in large ensemble settings. Additionally, students will have assigned projects such as performance and written quizzes and exams. Each class may include lecture/demonstration, individual and group demonstrations and performance, video demonstrations and use, peer coaching and teaching, as well as alternative discovery options.

**Rationale:**

Music education students need to be prepared to teach in a strings classroom. Current music education employment has a need for qualified orchestra teachers that are confident, knowledgeable, and inquisitive educators, though perhaps not always string players. By successfully negotiating the varied aspects of this course, students will be armed with many qualities necessary to feel comfortable stepping into a string orchestra classroom and moving the pupils forward with knowledge, confidence, and drive.

**Required Text:**

Essential Elements for Strings Teacher Manual Book 1-Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, Pamela Tellejohn Hayes

**Supplemental Texts to be supplied in class:**

Beautiful Music for Two Stringed Instruments-Samuel Applebaum

Dragonhunter-Richard Meyer

Additional texts as necessary

**Class Materials:**

Laptop, Notebook, or three ring binder for taking notes and collecting materials and resources and Internet access

Stringed Instruments provided by Colorado State University

Required text as listed above, Supplemental texts as supplied

***MU 252C Course Timeline-Fall 2016***

**\*\*\*These are general dates, subject to change as learning styles and speeds are determined\*\*\***

**August:**

23 Intro, Syllabus-Get Started on assigning inventory, assign books purchase, one observation per semester

25: Assign inventory, holding the instrument, posture, parts of the instrument using Essential Elements book

30: Essential Elements(EE1-9): Finger positions on the D and A strings, Pizz, Tapes or no tapes, (Take Home Handout Assigned),

**September:**

**OVER-ARCHING THEMES: Tuning the instruments, Simple bowing techniques, Orchestra Literature, Set up of your classroom**

1: (EE1-17), Tuning

6: (EE20-36), D, A, G string bass Tuning, (Take Home Handout Due),

8: (EE41-53), Bow hold, Bowing start (French and German bows and holds), Simple Bowing

Establishing good tone, Down, Up bows

13: (EE Individual Performances), Orch lit ideas

15: (EE54-73)

20: (EE74-87), Peer coaching instructions give , Orch Lit ideas

22: (EE as determined), Peer coaching/lesson

27: (EE as determined), Note Lengths, cutoffs, entrances, bowings, Set up of your classroom

29: (EE as determined), WARM TONE, bow use, left hand

**October:**

**OVER-ARCHING THEMES: Achieving Excellent Tone, Shifting, Vibrato**

4: EE, Individual performances, Tone

6: EE, IP’s, Review for Midterm begins, Tone

11: IP’s, Review for midterm continues if time permits,

13: Midterm exam and performances if needed

October 18: Switch Instruments: Students teach posture (Peer Lesson Preparation)

20:EE1-36 Peer Lesson coaching

25:EE, Shifting,

27:EE41-53, Shifting, Vibrato

**November:**

**OVER-ARCHING THEMES: Advanced Bowing Techinques, Repairing the instruments, Getting Hired**

1: EE as Determined, Vibrato, Advanced Bowing Techinques

3:EE as Determined, Individual Performances

8:EE54-73, Advanced Bow Tech

10:EE74-87, Repairing the insts

15:EE, Repairing continued

17:EE88-105, Resource Binder Reminder, Getting Hired

29:EE106-125, Getting Hired continued

**December:**

**OVER-ARCHING THEMES: Putting it all together**

1: Final Individual Performances, Putting it all together

6: Final Performances, and begin Final Exam Review, Final Questions about the right job

8: Review for Final continues, Resource Binder Project Due

14: Final Exam 6:20-8:20 PM

***MU 252C Course Requirements and Assignments:***

**Take Home Handout-**

A single page handout for each of the two instruments that you are studying. You will write a handout which could be used as an information/recruiting/promotive billet or brochure on the instrument you are studying to interest prospective students on the best aspects of the instrument!

**Group Performance in class-**

Small group performances in class from any of the class resources we have available. Students will be assessed on the overall quality of the performance with special attention focused upon pitch accuracy, tone, rhythm, technique, and ensemble precision.

**Peer Lesson/Lesson Plan-**

Two coaching/teaching of a peer during the semester on a specific lesson from our materials. A lesson plan must be submitted for this peer lesson. We will go over the substance of the lesson plans prior to the lesson taught.

**Individual Performance-**

Individual performances, twice on each instrument; may be in class or recorded, depending on time available. Generally, these will be brief excerpts taken from our Essential Elements or another supplemented text used in class.

May be announced or unannounced. BE PRACTICING OFTEN, BE PREPARED!

**Visitation/observation Report-**

A single visitation/observation and 2 page double-spaced and typed report of either a private lesson given by one of Colorado State String faculty, or an area string teacher’s orchestra class. This report should contain your specific learnings and observations, as well as things you may have learned which you will be able to use in your classroom.

**Quizzes-**

Either announced or unannounced and all timed, but brief. May be given any time during semester, including at the class start time. These will be written quizzes.

**Midterm Exam-**

Covering materials through the first 8-9 weeks of the semester with review materials distributed a week before the exam.

**Final Exam-**

Culminating exam of all instruction from the semester, review materials distributed during the week before the final examination, and reviewed in class.

**Resource Binder Project-**

An organized binder which contains all of your materials compiled during the semester which you will be utilizing for your first orchestra teaching job. This shall include class notes, resources, applicable research toward projects and class answers, and adequate teaching materials for your future teaching opportunities.

***Course and Assignment Grading:***

**Grade Scale:**

A: 94-100%

A-:90-93%

B+:87-89%

B: 83-86%

B-:80-82%

C+:77-79%

C: 73-76%

C-:70-72%

***Assignment and Grade Summary:***

Take Home Handout (20ptsx2) \_\_\_\_\_/40 points

Group Performances in class (20ptsx2) \_\_\_\_\_/40 points

Peer lesson/Lesson Plan (60 pts) \_\_\_\_\_/30 points

Individual performances (20ptsx4) \_\_\_\_\_/80 points

Visitation/observation Report (30 points) \_\_\_\_\_/30 points

Quizzes (10 points each) \_\_\_\_\_/30 points

Midterm exam (50 points) \_\_\_\_\_/50 points

Final exam (80 points) \_\_\_\_\_/80 points

Resource Binder Project (50 points) \_\_\_\_\_/50 points

Total Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_/430 points

**Late Work:**

Students are expected to turn in assignments at the beginning of class on the day due. Assignments turned in after that time are considered late and will incur a lowered grade. One letter grade will be deducted for each day assignments are late. Late assignments will no longer be accepted one week after the original due date. The final resource binder project, however, will not be accepted late.

**Course Attendance:**

All students are expected to attend all classes each session, and to be on time to class. Student participation in class lessons, peer projects, lectures, and general learning is vital for success. Participation points on quizzes, projects, exams, and peer teaching cooperatives may not be made up if the student is absent, or behind the class starting time. Only university sanctioned events, illness, or family emergencies may be considered excused absences but must have accompanying documentation for validity.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students are expected to conform to Colorado State University’s academic integrity/plagiarism policy contained in the CSU general catalog. See the following General Catalog:

<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES1112f.pdf>

and the Student Conduct Code:

<http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code#conduct>