

**Study of Strings**  
**MUSI 3166**  
**SPRING 2018**  
**T-TH 11:00-12:20**  
**Room 205, School of Music**

Dr. Daniel Saenz  
PAC 120E  
Office Hours: by appointment only  
Office Phone: 936-294-1375  
Email: [danielsaenz@shsu.edu](mailto:danielsaenz@shsu.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:**

*Essential Elements 2000 for Strings (Teacher's Manual Book 1)* by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes (ISBN 0-634-03816-8)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to teach stringed instruments in a group setting. Students will learn the basic concepts associated with correct seating positions, left hand playing position, control of bow hand position, elements of sound production, and development of proficiency in first position (with the exception of the double bass).

**Requirements:** During the course the student will:

1. Prepare weekly playing exercises, discussion notes, and/or written assignments.
2. Become familiar with string teaching techniques.
3. Students are financially responsible for any damage to school instruments while in their use and care.

When not in use during class or in a practice room, the instruments are to be kept **ONLY** in the assigned lockers. Students may not take the instruments out of the School of Music building. Also, since both sections of the course use the same instruments, students may not use their assigned instrument while the other section of Study of Strings is meeting. Students are required to sign a contract for use of the assigned instrument.

**Attendance Policy:** Two absences may be taken without penalty. Absences beyond two will result in a penalty of three points per absence against the final grade. University business requires an excuse from the appropriate official before an absence is to be deemed excused. Students must show the original excuse, NOT a photocopy.

**If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the assignments for the next class day. You are still responsible for taking a test or turning in assignments even if you have missed the previous class.** NO EXCEPTIONS. Students must sign in for every class. A summary of your absences will be made available to you upon request.

**Assignments:** Students should be prepared each class session with all materials and accessories (i.e. pencil, instrument, bow, rock stops, text book, etc.). Evaluation will be based on the playing assignments as well as class participation during each session.

In order to properly prepare for the playing assignments, 15 to 30 minutes of daily practice is recommended. Much consideration is given to the amount of improvement each student demonstrates during each class session. One instrument will be studied each semester however; **the student is responsible for information/notes on ALL string instruments.** Individual time in class is limited; therefore if you are having trouble you are **encouraged** to meet privately with the instructor outside of class.

**Semester Portfolio:** All students are encouraged to keep a Semester Portfolio containing all notes taken during the semester as well as handouts and exams. This will be useful to refer to once out in the teaching field.

**Exams:** Multiple exams will be given during the semester to gauge the comprehension of each area taught. The exams may include written questions and/or demonstration of playing skills. Make-up exams will be given only

if the student presents an official university excuse or doctor's note for the exam day missed. A final written and playing exam will be given at the end of the semester covering concept and potential problems for **EACH** instrument covered in class. Students are expected to take notes on the details and information given for each instrument even if they are not playing that particular instrument.

**Group Project:** Groups will consist of three to four students. Students will work as a team to create a recruiting presentation. The presentation will be geared toward the elementary student level for the purpose of recruiting students to join your elementary beginning strings program.

**Mini Teaching Demonstrations:** The student will give a short lesson/demonstration on basic set-up of proper playing position for the instrument (and bow) they are studying in the class.

**Teaching Demonstration:** Students will be assigned a short piece to teach to the entire class.

### **Grading (250 points total)**

Grading will be divided into the following areas:

Parts Quiz-----20 pts.  
Written Quiz #1—20 pts.  
Playing Exam #1—35 pts.  
Playing Exam #2—35 pts.  
Mini Teaching Demonstration- 20 pts.  
Group Project- 35 pts.  
Teaching Demonstration---30 pts.  
Written Quiz #2 —20 pts.  
Written Quiz #3- 35 pts.

### **Total= 250 points**

A= 225-250 points  
B= 200-224 points  
C= 175-199 points  
D= 150-174 points  
F= Below 150 points

**Use of cell phones and other electronic devices use is prohibited during class, with the exception of taking notes when the professor is giving a lecture. Inappropriate use of electronic devices during class (i.e. talking, texting, email, web surfing, etc.) will result in the lowering of the semester grade by one full letter grade per offense.**

**Please do not wear hats in class.**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

*The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above approach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.*

**RULES OF CONDUCT:**

*Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute cell phones and/or pagers before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form or distraction action in accordance with university policy.*

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy**

*Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take and examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.*

*University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or of the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.*

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.*

*SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:*

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

