

**Course Syllabus: MUSI VIOL 1201 – 02 and VIOL 3201-02  
Applied Viola Spring 2018**

**Professor:** Nina Bledsoe  
**Meeting time:** Tuesday individual lessons and studio class at 3:30  
**Class room:** GPAC 120B  
**Office hours:** by appointment  
**Office location:** GPAC 120B  
**Email:** [ngb007@shsu.edu](mailto:ngb007@shsu.edu)  
**Website:** [www.ninabledsoeviola.com](http://www.ninabledsoeviola.com)

**Course Description:** Weekly one on one lessons and studio class.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Objectives:**

1. Provide students with appropriate viola technique by using scales, etudes, and repertoire.
2. Engage students to think and play musically, practice with intention, perform confidently, teach with organization, and share their music ability and knowledge with others.
3. Prepare viola majors for careers in music by providing performance opportunities, guidance in building a private studio and freelance career, training in orchestral audition preparation, performance practice through studio class, and teaching opportunities through the cultivation of a supportive studio environment.

**Required Textbooks and Supplies:**

- Pencil with eraser
- Sevcik Op. 8 Shifting the Positions, arranged by Lionel Tertis. Publisher: Bosworth & Co.
- Schradieck School of Violin Technics for Viola, Book 1 Publisher: G Schirmer, Inc.
- Music individually assigned. You are responsible for purchasing your assigned music.
- Heidi Castleman Scale sheet
- Galamian Scale Book OR Carl Flesch Scale System Book
- Metronome and Tune (phone apps are acceptable)

**Copyright:** Please review the copyright laws and rules. It is important that you own your own music.

This website is helpful in understanding how music copyright works and what our responsibilities as artists and teachers is: <https://nafme.org/my-classroom/copyright/copyright-law-what-music-teachers-need-to-know/>

### **Attendance Policy:**

Since lessons are scheduled once a week, attendance at every lesson is mandatory. Excused absences may be granted for serious reasons such as severe illness, family emergency, or a university sponsored trip. In order to be excused, students must give the instructor at least 24 hours notice prior to the lesson. (Note: informing the instructor of an absence less than 24 hours before the scheduled lesson time will not be accepted). If there is insufficient notice, that lesson will not be made up and the student will receive 0 pts for that weeks lesson grade. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a grade of "F" for the entire semester. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to schedule any necessary make-up lesson as soon as possible. If the instructor needs to miss a lesson, he will notify the student in a timely manner and make arrangements for the make-up lesson. The student is expected to be prepared, warmed up and on time for his/her lesson. It is important to be punctual in order to allow everyone an equal amount of time.

### **Studio Class Participation:**

Students are required to perform in studio class at least 4 times per semester. Studio class is an opportunity to perform and receive constructive feedback from Professor Bledsoe and the other students in the studio.

### **Practice**

Regular and productive practice is expected. Music education majors should practice a minimum of 14 hours per week. Performance majors should practice a minimum of 21 hours per week. One cannot cram practice. The best course of action is to practice each day for a specific amount of time.

### **Juries**

**Undergraduate:** Students enrolled in Applied Music lessons must perform a jury at the end of each semester.

**The only two exceptions to this policy apply to students who performed a degree recital in the same semester, and students who are taking lessons in lieu of string methods.**

Material for the Semester Jury should include **two contrasting pieces (one of these could be an etude), and a scale for those students who have not taken/passed the Sophomore Barrier Exam.** For speed purposes, the notes of the scale are to be two slurred quarter-notes at 60. Memorization of scales is required for all viola majors. Students are expected to have a pianist for all the repertoire that requires one.

Time limit: Although the time limit for the Semester Jury is ten minutes, students should prepare complete movements/single pieces/etudes. The faculty jury reserves the right to stop and/or skip portions of larger pieces.

Students should treat juries like a professional audition and should dress professionally. Please consult with Professor Bledsoe if you have any questions about this policy.

### **Sophomore Barrier Exam:**

(Upper-level Proficiency Jury): At the end of the sophomore year all music majors must pass an Upper-Level Proficiency Jury in order to advance to upper-division status (300-level). Students who fail any portion of this jury will be placed on probationary status and are given two more opportunities to raise their performance level to upper-division status.

**Expectations:** In order to pass, students are expected to show evidence of extensive practice on the assigned material. The repertoire pieces and scales should be nearly perfect.\*

\* For grading purposes, nearly perfect means that the student must know the music sufficiently well, that good intonation is consistent, rhythm and memory are solid, and that the student has good control of her/his tone production.

**Retaking the Barrier Exam:** Students can retake the exam toward the beginning of the following semester before the drop/add period ends. If they pass, this will allow them to register for the appropriate course number without delaying their graduation plans. Students who retake the barrier exam must play all portions of the exam, two contrasting movements (three for Music Performance majors) from standard works and all major and minor scales. It is at the discretion of the teacher to change or retain the repertoire pieces from a previous exam.

**BA/BM Ed Majors:** Two contrasting movements from standard works (concertos, sonatas, single pieces, etc.) and all major and minor scales memorized. The two chosen movements can be from a single work or from different pieces.

**BM Performance Majors:** Three contrasting movements from standard works (concertos, sonatas, single pieces, etc.) and all major and minor scales memorized. Two of the movements must be played from memory.

Scales: The scale portion of the exam must be played from memory. For speed purposes, the notes of the scale are to be two slurred quarter-notes at 60. Performance majors may play the scales faster.

**Recital Previews/Pre-Recital Juries:** Recital Previews/Pre-Recital Juries should take place a minimum of two weeks prior to the scheduled recital date. If the student fails to pass the preview/jury, the student will be required to postpone their recital. At least one month should pass before another attempt is made. **See 'RECITAL PERFORMANCE: Recital Previews/Pre-Recital Juries' on p. 17-18 of the STUDENT HANDBOOK.** (taken directly from the SHSU Music Student Handbook 2015-2016 page 10).

### **Course Schedule**

Schedule of lessons, studio and all other viola and string related events will be placed online at the web address below. It is the responsibility of each student to check the website regularly for pertinent scheduling information.  
[www.ninabledsoeviola.com](http://www.ninabledsoeviola.com)

**Accompanists for Recital:** Depending on the availability of pianists, students playing recitals may be assigned an accompanist, granted the timely submission of the proper forms and music to Dr. Ilonka Rus. Other students have the responsibility to hire their own accompanists in a timely manner (please check Dr. Rus' door for a list of accompanists or ask your colleagues). Students are required to bring their accompanist at least two times to their lessons prior to the jury.

**Grading: The overall grade for the semester is based on the following criteria:**

Grading is based on attendance in lessons, preparation for lessons, participation and attendance in studio class, and your jury grade. Unexcused absences to lessons will greatly impact your grade. You are required to attend fellow studio member recitals and the faculty string quartet recitals each semester.

**Grading scale:**

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	below 60

**Important Dates:**

October 9 7:30 pm: Faculty String Quartet Concert  
More dates to be announced as semester progresses

**Academic Honesty:**

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. 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.

**Proper Classroom Demeanor/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 pages 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 of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:**

Section 51.91(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 an 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 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 timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

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 counseling Center 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 Counseling Center.