

# MUSI 3137 | String Methods

Fall 2024

MW 1:25-2:20pm | Cowan Fine Arts Center #1222

Instructor: Anna Larson

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Office Hours: MW 11:45am – 1:15pm or by appointment

## Course Overview

In this course, students will gain hands-on experience playing and teaching each of the four string instruments – violin, viola, cello, and bass. The course will cover fundamentals of performance, essential pedagogy, maintenance of instruments, and teaching resources.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Identify and define the various parts and equipment needed for each string instrument.
- Demonstrate and articulate knowledge of playing each string instrument at a fundamental level.
- Demonstrate appropriate instrument sizing and set-up for each string instrument.
- Have confidence in teaching beginning techniques for string instrument.
- Locate standard repertoire and method books for beginning orchestra classes as well as additional resources and support for orchestra teachers.
- Properly maintain and care for any string instrument.

## Required Materials

- [Essential Elements for Strings – Book 1: Teacher Manual](#)
- Membership to [Mimi Zweig String Pedagogy Online Edition](#) (free)
- Instrument and materials (to be checked out to students)
- Binder to compile notes, assignments, and handouts (**due at the end of the semester**)

## Grading Scale

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 69-69

F: below 60

## Graded Course Requirements

Attendance & In-Class Participation	15%
Assignments & Quizzes	20%
Unit Exams	30%
Teaching Presentation	10%
Final Exam	25%

### Assignments & Quizzes – 20% (10 points each)

- 10 short quizzes reviewing the course material for the week. (on Wednesdays)
- 8 short playing video assignments, 2 for each instrument. (due Tuesday at 11:59pm)

### Unit Exams – 30% (25 points each)

- Playing Exam – video submission
- Teaching Exam
  - o One-on-one pairing with another student, teach key elements of the instrument you learned that rotation
  - o Teaching Exam Prep sheet

### Teaching Presentation- 10% (50 points)

- 5-7 minute presentation of an assigned topic as if you were teaching in the classroom
- written lesson plan

### Final Exam – 25% (100 points)

- Final Portfolio (50 points) – due at final written exam, will be returned
  - o Include teaching exam prep sheet for all 4 instruments
  - o Include classroom teaching presentation lesson plan
  - o Reading notes and handouts from the class
- Written Exam (50 points) – **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30pm**
  - o Can use final portfolio on written exam

### **Late Work and Make-up Exams**

Late Work will be accepted with a 10% deduction for each day that it is late. Missing assignments must be turned in by the end of each instrument rotation, or they will receive a grade of 0.

Make-up Exams will be permitted in case of an excused absence on the day of the in-class exam. Students are responsible for scheduling make-up exams with the instructor.

Students experiencing extenuating circumstances preventing the completion of work must contact the instructor to find an alternate solution.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance at scheduled class times is mandatory.

Grade penalties for absences and tardies:

Tardy of 5 minutes or more                      50% grade for attendance that day.

2 tardies of 5 minutes or more                Counted as an unexcused absence.

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Unexcused Absence                      Grade of “0” for attendance that day.

3<sup>rd</sup> Unexcused Absence, and each              Letter grade will be lowered one letter.  
subsequent unexcused absence

Excused absences will be considered under the following circumstances:

- serious or contagious illness,
- family emergency (limited to immediate family),
- participation in a UT Tyler-sanctioned event, if the instructor is informed at least four weeks in advance,
- observance of religious holy days,
- any other unavoidable circumstances in which the instructor deems an excuse is justified.

See University policies on [Excused Absences](#) and absences for [pregnant and parenting students](#).

Except in emergency situations, students **must** contact the instructor prior to class time in order to receive consideration for an excused absence.

In case of injury preventing a student from playing an instrument in class, the student will still be expected to attend class and will be given an alternate assignment.

### Course Calendar (subject to change)

Week – Date	Class Topics	Assignments and Exams
Week 1 – August 26	Review Syllabus and Introduction to Strings <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- history of string instruments</li><li>- parts of the instruments and how they work</li><li>- instrument set-up</li><li>- instrument care (EE 259)</li></ul>	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- pg. 34-36, 259 Essential Elements Teacher Manual Book 1 (EE)</li><li>- <a href="#">1.1</a> and <a href="#">5.1</a>, Mimi Zweig StringPedagogy (MZ)</li></ul>
Week 1 – August 28	Check out instruments – Start rotation 1 Holding the instrument Learning by rote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- open strings (ant song, CGC/GDG/DAD/AEA)</li></ul> Pencil Hold	Quiz 1 – Instrument ranges, strings, and clefs  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- EE 37-38</li><li>- MZ <a href="#">1.2</a>, <a href="#">4.1</a>, <a href="#">5.2</a>, <a href="#">5.3</a>, <a href="#">5.4</a></li></ul>
Week 2 – September 2	No class – Labor Day	Rotation 1 – Video 1 <i>due Tuesday September 3 at 11:59pm</i>
Week 2 – September 4	Setting up the bow hold & bow games Adding the bow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Silent string crossings and DAD</li></ul>	Quiz 2 – Parts of the instrument & needed materials  <b>*BRING A TOILET PAPER TUBE*</b>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- EE 56-57, 93-94, 98</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review EE 34-36, 259</li> <li>- <a href="#">MZ 1.4, 4.2, 5.5, 5.6</a></li> </ul>
Week 3 – September 9	<i>Census Date</i> Setting up the Left Hand See Saw	Rotation 1 – Video 2 <i>due Tuesday September 10 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 46-47</li> <li>- <a href="#">MZ 1.5, 5.7</a></li> </ul>
Week 3 – September 11	D Major Scale Twinkle rhythms	Quiz 3 – Finger Tape Placements  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review EE 46-47</li> <li>- <a href="#">MZ 1.6</a>, review <a href="#">5.7</a> “Twinkle” sections</li> </ul>
Week 4 – September 16	Steps to Learning a New Piece Twinkle “Plop” and Twinkle Notes	Playing Exam 1 <i>due Tuesday September 17 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">MZ 5.8</a></li> <li>- review <a href="#">MZ 1.6, 5.7</a> “Twinkle” sections</li> </ul>
Week 4 – September 18	Teaching Exam 1 (15 minute rotations) Check in/ Check out instruments – Start rotation 2  See Saw and D Major Scale on new instruments	Teaching Exam 1 – Prep sheet due
Week 5 – September 23	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ant Song</li> <li>- CGC/GDG/DAD/AEA</li> </ul> Twinkle Theme	Rotation 2 – Video 1 <i>due Tuesday September 24 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- review <a href="#">MZ 1.6</a>, and <a href="#">5.7</a> “Twinkle” sections</li> <li>- review <a href="#">MZ 5.2, 5.3, 5.5</a> for your new instrument</li> </ul>
Week 5 – September 25	Transition to Reading EE # 2-22	Quiz 4 – Steps to Learning a New Piece  Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 40-62</li> <li>- review <a href="#">MZ 5.8</a></li> </ul>
Week 6 – September 30	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bow hold</li> <li>- DAD with the bow</li> </ul>	Rotation 2 – Video 2 <i>due Tuesday October 1 at 11:59pm</i>

	Shifting introduction 3 <sup>rd</sup> position for the Bass EE# 23-36	Reading/Apply: - EE 64-80
Week 6 – October 2	Reading without note names EE #40-46 Reading with the Bow EE #37-39, 47-64	Quiz 5 – Notes & Fingerings on the Staff  Reading/Apply: - EE 83-111, review 256- 257
Week 7 – October 7	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 3 - Left-Hand Set-up - See-Saw - D Major Scale  Tuning the Instruments	Reading/Apply: - <a href="#">How to Tune Your Violin</a> - <a href="#">Tuning your Cello</a> - <a href="#">How to Tune a Double Bass</a>
Week 7 – October 9	Low C# on Bass Reading Rhythms with the Bow EE #65-81 Bow Strokes - Martele - Detache - Legato	Playing Exam 2 <i>due Sunday October 13 at 11:59pm</i>  Quiz 6 – Tuning Techniques  Reading/Apply: - EE 112-123 - Review MZ <a href="#">5.6</a> , <a href="#">5.7</a> for descriptions of bow strokes
Week 8 – October 14	Teaching Exam 2 (15 minute rotations) Check in/ Check out instruments – Start rotation 3  D Major Scale (EE #64), Twinkle (EE #43) on new instruments	Teaching Exam 2 – Prep sheet due
Week 8 – October 16	Review Bow Strokes & Shifting Violin/Viola 4 <sup>th</sup> finger, Cello 2.5 position G Major EE #82-102	Reading/Apply: - EE 124-149 - Review MZ <a href="#">5.2</a> , <a href="#">5.3</a> , <a href="#">5.5</a> for your new instrument
Week 9 – October 21	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 4 - Twinkle Rhythms - Twinkle “Plop” - Twinkle Notes  Bass 2.5 position Intro to Ties and Slurs EE # 106-110	Rotation 3 – Video 1 <i>due Tuesday October 22 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading/Apply: - EE 152-156
Week 9 – October 23	Slurs, cont. EE #111-125	Quiz 7 – Bowing notation and parts of the bow

		Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 156-172</li> <li>- Review EE 35-36, 82, 100, 155-156</li> </ul>
Week 10 – October 28	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- D String Notes</li> <li>- Reading on 2 strings, Bass A</li> <li>- Bass 3<sup>rd</sup> Position</li> </ul> Violin/Viola Low 2, Cello 2 <sup>nd</sup> finger EE #126-143 Review proper playing position	Rotation 3 – Video 2 <i>due Tuesday October 29 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 173-194</li> <li>- Review MZ <a href="#">5.2</a>, <a href="#">5.3</a></li> </ul>
Week 10 – October 30	C Major / C String E String Extra Long Bows EE #144-166	Quiz 8 – Proper Playing Position  Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 195-217</li> <li>- Review MZ <a href="#">5.2</a>, <a href="#">5.3</a></li> </ul>
Week 11 – November 4	<i>Last day to Withdraw</i> Staccato (Martele) & Hooked Bows EE #167-179	Playing Exam 3 <i>due Tuesday November 5 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 218-228</li> </ul>
Week 11 – November 6	Teaching Exam 3 (15 minute rotations) Check in/ Check out instruments – Start instrument rotation 4  D Major Scale (EE #64), Twinkle (EE #43) on new instruments	Teaching Exam 3 – Prep sheet due
Week 12 – November 11	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Violin/Viola 4<sup>th</sup> finger, Cello 2.5 position</li> <li>- Violin/Viola Low 2, Cello 2<sup>nd</sup> finger</li> <li>- Beginning bow strokes and markings</li> </ul> Skill Builders EE#169-173, 177-180, 183-187 Instrument Sizing	Rotation 4 – Video 1 <i>due Tuesday November 12 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 220-222, 227-228, 231-233</li> <li>- MZ <a href="#">5.1</a> for instrument sizing</li> <li>- Review MZ <a href="#">5.2</a>, <a href="#">5.3</a>, <a href="#">5.5</a> for your new instrument</li> </ul>
Week 12 – November 13	Dynamics EE # 181-182 Learning larger pieces EE #189	Quiz 9 – Proper Instrument Sizing  Reading/Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EE 229-231, 236-237</li> <li>- review MZ <a href="#">5.8</a></li> </ul>

Week 13 – November 18	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 7 - Slur 2 notes - Slurs across strings - Staccato & hooked bows  Learning larger pieces EE # 190, 192	Rotation 4 – Video 2 <i>due Tuesday November 19 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading/Apply: - EE 238-241, 244-249
Week 13 – November 20	Fun with advanced topics: - Shifting - Vibrato - Double stops	Quiz 10 – Classroom set-up  Reading/Apply: - MZ <a href="#">Shifting Page</a> - MZ <a href="#">Vibrato Page</a>
November 25-29	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week 14 – December 2	Classroom Teaching Presentations Day 8 - Dynamics - Learning larger pieces - #188 - Learning larger pieces - #191  Resources for Orchestra Teachers	Playing Exam 4 <i>due Tuesday December 3 at 11:59pm</i>  Reading/Apply: - EE 234-235, 242-243 <b>REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM</b>
Week 14 – December 4	Teaching Exam 4 (15 minute rotations) Check in instruments  Final questions and review – <b>BRING QUESTIONS</b>	Teaching Exam 4 – Prep sheet due  <b>REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM</b>
Week 15 – December 9	Monday, December 9 from 12:30-2:30pm	FINAL EXAM

### Student Resources:

*Faculty can update student resources to provide additional supports appropriate for each course.*

#### Resources to assist you in the course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\)](#) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas

- [Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

#### Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Student Business Services](#) (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

#### **University Policies and Information**

##### **Withdrawing from Class**

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email [enroll@uttyler.edu](mailto:enroll@uttyler.edu) to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the



[Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career\*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

\* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

### **Artificial Intelligence Statement**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is not permitted at all. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course content (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for any assignment.

### **Final Exam Policy**

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for

the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when all of the following conditions are met*: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

### **Grade Appeal Policy**

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

### **Disability/Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services,

please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu), or call 903.566.7079."

### **Military Affiliated Students**

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at [MVSC@uttyler.edu](mailto:MVSC@uttyler.edu) or via phone at 903.565.5972.

### **Students on an F-1 Visa**

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

### **Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct**

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

### **FERPA**

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

### **Absence for Official University Events or Activities**

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

### **Absence for Religious Holidays**

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

### **Absence for Pregnant Students**

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students

includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at [parents@uttyler.edu](mailto:parents@uttyler.edu) and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.