

New York University
Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions
Strings Practicum E85.1426/E85.0066

Fall 2011 Dr. Susan A. Davis
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Wednesdays 4:55-6:35 at 239T

Course Description:

Strings practicum is an ensemble approach to learning and teaching string instruments. Each student will focus on one instrument for the semester, but there will be multiple opportunities to switch instruments and experience all the orchestral strings. Topics explored this semester will include fundamental string pedagogy, bowing styles, tone production, tuning, repertoire, method books, lesson planning, advanced techniques, and basic repairs.

Required texts:

Essential Elements 2000 Book I for your instrument

<http://www.essential-elements-2000.com/index.html>

Suzuki Book I for your instrument

Supplies Needed:

1. Instrument rental of your choice for the semester. We will coordinate this in the first class so that we have appropriate instrumentation to perform beginner string repertoire as an ensemble.
2. Violinists and violists need a shoulder rest
3. Cellists and bassists need a rock stop
4. Notebook or Binder

Recommended Resources:

Allen, M., Gillespie, R., & Hayes, P. T. *Essential elements 2000 for strings: Teachers manual*. Hal Leonard Publishing.

Hamann, D. L., & Gillespie, R. *Strategies for teaching strings*. Oxford University Press.

Littrell, D. & Racine, L. R. (Eds.). *Teaching music through performance in orchestra: Volume I*. GIA Publications: Chicago, IL.

SmartMusic Software <http://www.smartmusic.com>

Course Goals:

- To develop fundamental technical skills on violin, viola, cello and bass.
- To be able to teach these fundamental skills in a beginning string class with an understanding of a logical sequence of string curricula.
- To perform on a chosen instrument at NYSSMA Level III. (String majors will be required to perform on their secondary instrument at a NYSSMA level IV.)
- To develop competency with preparation of string/orchestral lesson plans.
- To become familiar with the realities, expectations, and functions of a school string program.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance (20%) is essential because new pedagogical principles and playing experiences will be introduced in every class session. The nature of a practicum is interactive and dependent upon active participation.
2. Written work (20%) will include completion of handouts, lesson plans, and preparation of string class materials.
3. Proficiency examinations (40%) will take place twice during the semester to assess your progress and competence at your chosen instrument. The midterm exam will include scales and NYSSMA level I solo. The final exam will include scales and a NYSSMA level III solo (level IV for string majors). I will provide recommendations for appropriate repertoire to each student.
4. A final project (20%) will be assigned to assess your fulfillment of the course objectives. Details of the project will be given in advance of the due date.

****Practice is essential for this class. Technique building is sequential and requires diligence and attention. Please let me know if you need any assistance along the way.

Instrument Rental Resources:

David Gage String Instruments (best for bass rental): 36 Walker Street, NY. 212-274-1322.

<http://www.davidgage.com>

Johnson String Instruments: 1-800-359-9351. <http://www.johnsonstring.com>

Southwest Strings: 1-800-723-6900. <http://www.swstrings.com>

Strings and Other Things: 1995 Broadway, Floor 6.

<http://www.stringsandotherthings.com/index.html>