

CARTHAGE COLLEGE - MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Cello Studio Applied Instruction / MUS 0050-13 Syllabus Spring 2022

Instructor: Peter J Thomas

Lesson Location: Johnson Arts Center Room 246

Lesson Hours: arranged between student and teacher prior to the start of each semester

FALL 2021 - Mondays 10:30AM-5PM

William Dowell – 10:05am - 11:35am

Zoey Kurka – 12:40pm - 1:25pm

Lily Lourigan – 1:30pm - 2:15pm

Grace Hill – 2:20pm – 3:05pm

Abby Roushia – 3:10pm – 3:55pm

Important Dates:

Feb 28 - UW-Whitewater Cello Professor Benjamin Whitcomb - Guest Studio Masterclass

March 7 - **Lessons ONLINE**, same times. But **NO Studio Class**

March 14 - **NO Lessons** and **NO Studio Class** (Carthage Spring Break)

April 11 - Different Lesson times this week and **NO Studio Class**

April 18 - **NO Lessons** and **NO Studio Class** (Carthage Spring Break)

April 19 - William Dowell's Senior Recital at 7:30pm in the Recital Hall

May 16 - Last Day of Lessons (Carthage Finals week)

May 16-18 - Juries TBD

Studio Class Location/Hours: Johnson Arts Center Room 246/4:10pm – 5pm

Phone: 612-730-1878 (call and text)

Email: pthomas@carthage.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course consists of approximately 13 private cello lessons with a jury performance of two contrasting and memorized pieces during finals week. Enrollment provides each student with a 45-minute lesson each week. All music majors are required to perform once a semester on a departmental recital. All students are required to submit a goals sheet AND a reflective essay during each semester. Attendance at weekly studio class is required of all students. Attendance at student and faculty concerts, recitals, mock auditions, master classes, and studio parties is highly encouraged. Attendance at Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra concerts and other teacher events is greatly encouraged. I often have complimentary tickets, so please let me know if you would like to attend the MSO.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Each week during lessons the student will be assigned to prepare and perform a solo piece as well as technique building exercises such as scales, arpeggios, and etudes focusing on both right and left hand advanced skills. Universal scale fingerings for all major and minor scales should be practiced daily. Scale technique is crucial in teaching not only the scales themselves but also advanced bow technique. Music majors are expected to learn four octave scales and arpeggios. Minors are expected to learn three octave scales and arpeggios. Majors will focus on learning multiple movements from three major works each semester (a concerto, a sonata, and a Bach Suite). Minors and non-majors/minors will focus on learning a movement from two major works each semester. Students are responsible for bringing all necessary books/repertoire, including an assignment notebook, to their lessons. These notebooks will be used to take notes during lessons and should strongly be used as a guide when practicing.

GRADING:

Musical progress is challenging to access. At times progress can appear to be rapid and encouraging and at other times very slow and frustrating. Each student will set realistic goals with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Receiving a positive grade would indicate that the student has achieved those goals through weekly progress and attendance.

Attendance is mandatory at lessons and studio class. If you are unable to attend a lesson, you must contact your instructor 24 hours in advance of your lesson time by email or text or you will receive an unexcused absence. Special consideration will only be given to illness or emergency.

Weekly preparation is the time spent individually in a practice room working on the ideas presented during lessons. It is evident when weekly preparation is not achieved during lessons. Students are suggested to practice a minimum of four days a week to see positive results. Daily practice is most ideal and will secure quicker, more noticeable, and better results. The length of practice time appropriate for each student will be discussed during lessons. For music majors, 2-3 hours each day is standard. For music minors, 1-2 hours of daily practice is suggested. For non-majors/minors, 1 hour of daily practice is suggested. It is best to practice at the same time each day, in order to make it a part of one's daily routine. Quality of time spent should always be stressed over length of time. Practicing with a metronome and tuner will greatly help the quality of each practice session.

The purpose of submitting a **goals** sheet is to have an idea of what to work towards. **Please submit this sheet by the third lesson of each semester.** The **reflective essay** (one page minimum) is to reflect on those goals by diving deeper into the explanation of why those goals were met or not. **Please submit the reflective essay by the end of Finals week.**

Please have a positive and enthusiastic **attitude** during lessons and studio class. Be supportive by giving compliments and constructive criticism to your peers. Help when you can and ask to be helped when you need it. The cello studio is a great opportunity to get to know one another and to create an environment that is conducive to learning and enjoying musical experiences together. This can happen if positive and constructive **communication** exists at a high and respectful level.

Juries will consist of two contrasting movements (memorized for Music Majors) plus all major and minor scales (if asked). All students are required to fill out repertoire analysis sheets for their jury pieces (instructions can be found on the Carthage website).

Attendance: 30%

Weekly Preparation: 40%

Musical Goals Sheet 5% and Reflective Essay: 5%

Attitude/Communication: 10%

Jury: 10%

A = 93 – 100

A- = 90 – 92

B+ = 87 – 89

B = 83 – 86

B- = 80 – 82

C+ = 77 – 79

C = 73 – 78

C- = 70 – 72

D+ = 67 – 69

D = 63 – 66

D- = 60 – 62

F = Less than 60

COURSE SUMMARY:

The study of music is different from any other activity because it engages the whole person. Music combines both physical and mental abilities simultaneously. Through cello study, the student will not only learn the skills necessary to execute a beautiful performance of a piece of music; he or she will develop mental skills exclusive to those who have studied music, creativity, emotional expression, discipline, self-esteem, and successively, the appreciation of other art forms. My number one goal as a teacher is to have fun and help in the learning process by teaching practice technique thus creating an enjoyable atmosphere for the student and promoting a lifelong appreciation for music.

It is the University's policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services for a letter of verification to provide to their instructor.