

## **SAXOPHONE STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

*MVW1415, MVW 2425, MVW 3435, MVW 4445, MVO 6460*

2010-2011 Academic Year – Spring Syllabus

Studio Class/Lecture: Monday, 6th period, MUB 120

Lessons: tba, MUB 307

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Helton

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Office Hours: As posted, and by appointment.

Web Page: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/music/saxophone>

### **DESCRIPTION**

Saxophone study at the University of Florida includes several components designed to prepare the student for the rigors of a teaching and performing career in music. Qualified music minors are also encouraged to participate. All students in the studio will participate in the following:

**Private lessons** with Dr. Helton (or in the case of music minors, with one of the graduate assistants) will take place weekly. Individual instruction will include the development of a comprehensive saxophone technique to enable the student to progress most efficiently. The student will gain a broad knowledge of the saxophone repertoire in the preparation of several performances and recitals. Teaching techniques will also be studied, especially as related to teaching the technique of the saxophone and musical communication.

**Studio classes** will be held weekly. Studio class time will consist of student performances, master classes and pedagogical and performance-related presentations and discussion. Typical topics of study will include: Performance issues (working with an accompanist, chamber music preparation and performance, orchestral playing, and concerto performances), how to practice, reed making and adjusting, repair and maintenance of the instrument, repertoire for the saxophone, saxophone quartet repertoire, rehearsal techniques, recital preparation, foreign study, pedagogy, and an overview of professional performing and teaching opportunities.

**Solo performances** are required of each student in the studio. One performance is required each semester in an Area Recital, Convocation, Guest Master Class or solo student recital. Students will also perform in a Studio Class each semester, as assigned. Practical performance experience is essential to the development of a strong performing musician.

**Performance examinations** (juries) will take place at the end of each semester. You will be responsible for a program of repertoire and etudes studied during the current semester. Additional requirements will be added for the Pre-Professional Jury, and for recital permission juries.

**Student recitals** are required of all music majors in the junior and senior years. Additional non-required recitals are encouraged. Graduate students are encouraged to perform one recital during each year of residence.

**Graduate pedagogy seminar** will meet regularly to discuss teaching techniques, method books, Repertoire, and job strategies. Graduate students will be expected to be active in teaching activities throughout their course of study.

**Large ensemble participation** is required during each semester of applied music registration, as space allows, and as assigned by the ensemble directors. It is expected that you will make a positive contribution to the ensemble to which you are assigned. Make the most of this opportunity.

**Spring Break in Paris.** During spring break we will be traveling to Paris to study the origins and development of the “French” saxophone. This optional course extension may be taken for additional credit or as a non-credit supplement to saxophone study at UF. Additional fees will apply.

## **OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course of study (four years for undergraduates, two years for graduates), the student should have a solid command of the technique of the saxophone, and be able to apply the practice and study techniques learned here in preparing new repertoire. The student should know a certain canon of saxophone repertoire well enough to: identify particular performance problems in the works, know a few details of the composer's life, know the form of the works, and be familiar with the musical language of the pieces. The student will also gain first-hand knowledge of a wide variety of performing situations. He/she should be able to anticipate problems which might be encountered in these situations, and provide well thought-out approaches to solving these problems. The student will learn effective practice techniques, and will know basic pedagogical approaches to teaching the fundamentals of saxophone playing.

## **MATERIALS**

Students will be required to purchase etude books and music for use in lessons, as assigned. Reeds, mouthpieces, metronomes, and other equipment may also need to be purchased. A professional quality instrument (alto saxophone) is required for music majors (and strongly suggested for music minors).

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance at lessons and studio class meetings is mandatory. Occasionally, a lesson may be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor and if time allows. Advanced notice must be given for any rescheduling. Make-up and rescheduled lessons that are missed will not be made up. Requests for unavoidable absences from lessons or studio classes must be submitted to the instructor in writing (email is fine) for prior approval.

## **EVALUATION**

### *Saxophone Studio Grade*

Final grades will be based on the student portfolio in combination with a studio grade. It is essential that the student portfolio be complete at the end of the semester. Attendance will also be **required** at all saxophone recitals and major performances (see list below).

### *Studio Grade*

Lesson preparation and attendance  
Area recital or Convocation performance  
Area recital/studio class attendance  
Studio class performance(s) (as assigned)  
Studio class composer/repertoire oral presentation (spring, as assigned) or Etude performance class (fall)  
Final performance exam (jury)

### **Studio Grades will be based on the following weighting system:**

Preparation for lessons 55  
Attendance at saxophone recitals/concerts/master classes 15  
Required solo performance 10  
Studio class/Area recital attendance 10  
Other Assignments: 10  
Composer/Repertoire Report (Spring); Etude Performance (Fall) 5

### **Attendance is required at the following saxophone events:**

January 18, 7:30 pm (MUB 101) Susan Fancher, Guest Artist Recital  
January 19, 6:00 pm (FOM) Susan Fancher, Guest Artist Master Class  
February 3, 7:30 pm (MUB 101) Jonathan Helton featured in concert with Kevin Sharpe  
February 27, 3:00 pm (MUB 101) Austin Smithson, Senior Recital  
February 27, 4:30 pm (MUB 101) David Santiago, Junior Recital  
March 27, (MUB 101) Onyx Saxophone Quartet Recital, University of Florida  
April 2, 4:00 pm (MUB 101) Paul Johnson, Senior Recital  
April 9, 4:30 (MUB 101) Nicole Szpakowski, Junior Recital  
April 9, 5:30 pm (MUB 101) Jonathan Crane, Junior Recital  
April 11, 7:30 pm (MUB 101) Saxophone Ensembles Concert

**Upcoming events of note:**

March 18-19, North American Saxophone Alliance Region 6 Conference, Jacksonville

April 15-17, Saxo Band Tour to Tampa Bay (tentative)

**Grading Scale**

94-100 A

91-93 A-

88-90 B+

84-87 B

81-83 B-

78-80 C+

74-77 C

71-73 C-

68-70 D+

61-67 D

**Disclaimer**

Course schedule and content subject to change.

**Academic Honor Policy**

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

**Students Requesting Accommodations due to Disabilities:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES SUMMARY, ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES****I. Performance**

\* You must be prepared for your lessons. Daily practice is essential.

\* You must sign up for and present a solo performance each semester. (Music majors must perform on one of the Area Recitals, Guest Master Classes or Convocations. Music minors must perform in studio class or on an area recital, as assigned.)

\* You must perform in studio class, if assigned. (Master classes, required etude performance, etc.)

\* Unless specifically indicated, all required performances must be accompanied. Pianist's expenses are the student's responsibility.

**II. Performance Exams/Juries**

Juries: *April 25, 27*

## **PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS**

### **Repertoire**

A minimum of two separate solo works for saxophone should be studied each semester. At least one of these should be a major work (sonata, concerto, or other extended work). During a year in which the student is preparing a recital, more repertoire will be required.

Approximately 10 etudes should be perfected each semester. During semesters in which the student is preparing a recital, fewer etudes will be required.

### **Technique**

Scales should make marked improvement each semester. In order to stay on schedule, at least one set of twelve scales/intervals should be checked off (in sixteenth-notes at 152) each semester. Additional sets should be learned over winter and summer breaks.

### **Practice**

Regular practice will be required to meet the above expectations. Daily practice is best. Performance majors will want to practice at least 3 hours per day. Other music majors should plan on at least 2 hours per day. Music minors will need at least one hour per day to succeed in studio. Graduate students will want to practice more. Progress is made in the practice room. The more you practice the easier it is to play the instrument. Also remember, somewhere else there are saxophonists who *are* practicing. Don't let them pass you up.

**Saxophone Studio Class** *meets every Monday*

**Weekly Schedule** *Attendance required*

### **Spring 2011**

*Week 1* — January 10. Introduction to the Course.

*Week 2* — January 17. *Holiday*

*Week 3* — January 24. "Preparing for a Recital"

*Week 4* — January 31. *Area Recital*

*Week 5* — February 7. "Reed Care and Adjustment"

*Week 6* — February 14 *Area Recital*

*Week 7* — February 21. Studio Master Class

*Week 8* — February 28 *Area Recital*

*Week 9* — March 7. No Class. Spring Break.

*Week 10* — March 14. "Business Acumen for Musicians"

*Week 11* — March 21. *Area Recital*

*Week 12* — March 28. Studio Master Class

*Week 13* — April 4. Studio Class Recital

*Week 14* — April 11 *Area Recital*

*Week 15* — April 18. End of year event

***Juries: April 25, 27***

Dates and class content subject to change.

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