

**SAXOPHONE STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
MVW1415, MVW 2425, MVW 3435, MVW 4445, MVO 6460

2017-2018 Academic Year – Spring Syllabus  
Studio Class/Lecture: Monday, 6th period, MUB 120  
Lessons: tba, Room 300-C, University Auditorium  
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Helton  
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Office: Room 300-C, University Auditorium  
Office Hours: As posted, and by appointment.  
Studio Web Page: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/music/saxophone>



**COURSE 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 take part 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. This semester we will model some of our studio class time after the French conservatory teaching method. Each week, one student will have her/his lesson in front of the class. This will serve two important pedagogical purposes: exposure to teaching and performance of music you are not studying will help you learn more repertoire and will allow you an objective observation of teaching techniques that may help you learn teaching techniques you can use in your own teaching.

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.

## 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 is 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. Advance 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.

## MAKE-UP LESSON POLICY

If you must miss your lesson for any reason, make a concerted effort to swap times with someone else. Do not wait until the last minute to do this; no one will want to change to a lesson that is coming up very soon. If you cannot find anyone to change times with you, contact me well in advance and I will try to re-schedule your lesson for that week. I will make every effort to teach make-up lessons myself, but there is a chance that rescheduled lessons will be taught by grad students. Rescheduled lessons that are missed will not be rescheduled a second time.

## EVALUATION

Studio Grades will be based on the following weighting scale:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Preparation for lessons                        | 60% |
| Attendance at recitals/concerts/master classes | 15  |
| Your required performance                      | 10  |
| Studio class/Area recital attendance           | 10  |
| Juried performance exam (jury)                 | 5   |

## Grading Scale

|          |          |          |          |        |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| 94-100 A | 88-90 B+ | 78-80 C+ | 68-70 D+ | 0-66 E |
| 91-93 A- | 84-87 B  | 74-77 C  | 61-67 D  |        |
|          | 81-83 B- | 71-73 C- |          |        |

Each lesson will be worth four points, awarded as follows:

- 4 – Excellent, well prepared
- 3 – Okay. Needed more practice this week
- 2 – Poorly prepared
- 1 – Not prepared to play
- 0 – Absent, no advanced notice, no attempt to communicate or to make it up

Lessons the 16th week will be for extra credit.

Points for attendance will be divided between all required events.

More information on grades and university grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance lessons and studio classes is integral to the nature of applied music learning, and is required. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

## **MATERIALS AND SUPPLY FEE**

MVW 1415, MVW 2425: \$60. MVW 3435, MVW 4445: \$70. MVO 6460: \$30. MUS 6973: \$0.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES SUMMARY, ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**

### **I. Performance**

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

- \* Attendance at required concerts, studio classes, and lessons is mandatory.

### **III. Performance Exams/Juries**

- \* You must present a jury at the end of the semester.

## **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

## **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 with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Saxophone Studio Class**  
**Weekly Schedule**

*Meets every Monday*  
*Attendance required*

**Spring 2018**

Week 1 — January 8. Introduction to the Course

Week 2 — January 15. *Holiday, no class Monday.*

Week 3 — January 22. European Conservatory Session 1

Week 4 — January 29. European Conservatory Session 2

Week 5 — February 5. European Conservatory Session 3

Week 6 — February 12. Area Recital

Week 7 — February 19. Area Recital

Week 8 — February 26. Guest Master Class: Jonathan Hulting-Cohen, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Week 9 — March 5. *Spring Break, no classes*

Week 10 — March 12. European Conservatory Session 4

Week 11 — March 19. Area Recital

Week 12 — March 26. Area Recital

Week 13 — April 2. Studio Class Recital

Week 14 — April 9. Graduate Student Master Class

Week 15 — April 16. Area Recital

Week 16 — April 23. Saxophone Olympics

**Juries:** April 30

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

*Music and Aesthetics Symposium*

Featuring: **Arno Bornkamp, Frederick Hemke, Duo Montagnard, Helton-Thomas Duo**, and more!

February 23, MUB 101. 9:00 am - 6:30 pm. Concerts, panel discussions, master classes

February 24, MUB 101. 9:00 am - 6:30 pm. Concerts, panel discussions, master classes

*Faculty Recital*

March 22, 7:30 pm, MUB 101. Dr. Helton performs music for two saxophones and piano with Kevin Sharpe and UF alum Gerard Spicer

*Student Recitals*

March 30, 6:00 pm, Mason Anthony, Senior Recital

March 30, 7:30 pm, Paul Lessard, Graduate Recital

April 7, 3:00 pm, Alex Sinnott, Senior Recital

April 8, 7:30 pm, Brendan Catalano, Graduate Recital

April 15, 4:00 pm, Noah Graben, Junior Recital

April 15, 5:30 pm, Jeni Leeps, Junior Recital

*Saxophone Ensembles Concert*

April 2, 7:30 pm, MUB 101. Saxophone Ensembles Concert

**Upcoming notable events (not required):**

January 14-17, Tampa, Florida, FMEA Conference

January 12-13, Fairfax, Virginia, Navy Band Saxophone Symposium

January 23, 7:30 pm, MUB 101. Faculty Chamber Music

March 20, 7:30 pm, MUB 101. Faculty Chamber Music

March 8-11, Cincinnati, Ohio, North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference

July 10-14, Zagreb, Croatia, World Saxophone Congress

*Dates and class content/requirements subject to change*  
*Syllabus updates will be communicated via email*