

Syllabus - Spring 2026
MUS 4905 – Projects and Problems:
Orchestra Repertoire for cello
(1-3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Thomas (273-3169 - cellist@ufl.edu)
Office hours: by appointment / Class schedule: TBA

1. Prerequisites

Instructor approval

2. Objectives

Building a core repertoire of excerpts most commonly required at professional orchestra auditions.

Mid-term: mock audition of material studied to date – date/time TBA

Final: mock audition of complete repertoire played for a jury of faculty – date/time TBA

3. Course Content

Excerpts from the following works will be studied:

Part 1: Mozart

Symphony No. 40

Symphony No. 35 (“Haffner”)

Part 2: Beethoven

Symphony No. 5

Symphony No. 9

Part 3: Early Romantics

Mendelssohn: Incidental music to a Midsummer Night’s Dream

Rossini: William Tell overture

Part 4: Middle Romantics

Smetana: Bartered Bride overture

Part 5: Brahms

Symphony No. 2

Symphony No. 3

Part 6: Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 4

Symphony No. 6

Part 7: Dvorak

Carnival Overture

Symphony No. 8

Part 8: R. Strauss

Don Juan

Ein Heldenleben

Part 9: Other 19th-century

Smetana: Bartered Bride overture

Debussy: *Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune*

Part 10: List of other significant excerpts

GRADING

Semester grades are assigned according to the following elements:

- 1) Attendance (20%)
- 2) Performance level* of each part listed in course content (3.5% for each part)
- 3) Mid-term presentation grade (15%)
- 4) Final jury grade (30%)

Weekly progress may be discussed at weekly sessions and will be made available in writing upon request.

*performance level rated according to following elements in order of importance:

- a) pitch and tone quality
- b) rhythm
- c) dynamics
- d) articulation

CLASS POLICIES

1. Attendance

- (a) Students are expected to attend weekly classes as scheduled. The schedule will be posted on the studio door.
- (b) Requests for excused absences must be made by e-mail as soon as the necessity for absence is known, and at least 3 days prior to the requested date. This includes absences for ALL religious observances (note: you must be a practicing member of the religion for which you are requesting an absence).
- (c) The legitimacy of excused absence requests will be determined solely by the Instructor.
- (d) No-shows will result in automatic lowering of a student's grade, unless the no-show is caused by medical emergency requiring an immediate visit to a medical facility or by a catastrophic personal event.

2. Punctuality

Students must be ready to begin class at the scheduled time. Following the first instance of lateness each semester, which does not carry a penalty, any subsequent occurrence from 5 to 15 minutes will be counted as ½ a no-show. Lateness of more than 15 minutes will be considered a no-show. Excuses for and consequences of lateness follow the guidelines of 1(d) above.

3. Demeanor, dress code, etc

- (a) Students are expected to dress appropriately for all cello-related classes. Tank tops and mini-skirts are not permitted. Knee-length (or longer) clothing is recommended.
- (b) Cell phones must be turned off prior to entering the classroom.
- (c) Gum chewing is not permitted during class

4. Communication

The primary form of communication outside the studio and classroom is e-mail. Students must check their UF e-mail address every day and have a 24-hour window to respond. Text messaging should be used for urgent messages. Calls to the instructor's cell phone should only be made when necessary and urgent.

5. Course materials

- (a) Students will be provided with sheet music for all class repertoire. No cost will be incurred.
- (b) Recordings used for research and study must be obtained in compliance with copyright laws.

6. General

All cello-related courses adhere to all university-wide policies which may be accessed following this link: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>