MUEN XX31.005 | Instrumental Chamber Ensemble: Strings

Spring 2026

Monday 6-8pm, Cowan Fine Arts Center #1221

Instructor: Anna Larson   Office: FAC 2217   Email: alarson@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: Monday 12:00-3:00pm

Course Overview

Students in this course will rehearse and perform in a string chamber orchestra. Repertoire is selected based on instrumentation and ability levels of those enrolled. There will be one 2-hour rehearsal each week (Monday 6-8pm).

New students must audition for the ensemble via recorded video or in-person meeting with the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

Study and perform string chamber orchestra repertoire in a variety of styles.
Develop collaboration skills based in aural awareness, musicianship, and communication.
Develop greater awareness of intonation, articulation, and tone quality in a group setting.

Required Materials

Instrument & required accessories
Pencil
Black binder or folder dedicated to music
Music (to be distributed in class)
Black Performance Attire (see below)

Grading Scale

A: 90-100   B: 80-89   C: 70-79   D: 69-69   F: below 60

Graded Course Requirements

Attendance   50%
    5 pts/ rehearsal
    25 pts/ performance
Preparation/Participation   50%
    5 pts/ rehearsal
    25 pts/ performance

Performances

There will be one performance at the end of the semester. Additional performances may be added, with at least 4 weeks notice. Please see course schedule below for performance dates.

Performance attire

Men: Black button-down shirt, black dress pants and shoes, black socks, black belt.

Women: Black top with 3/4 to full length sleeves, no sheer (see through) fabrics or sequins. Black floor length skirt or dress pants, no yoga pants or jeans. Black dress shoes, no open toe or sandals. Minimal jewelry (nothing distracting).

Make-up Policy

Students may receive preparation credit for up to 2 missed rehearsals by submitting a video of excerpts chosen by the instructor. No make-up assignment will be given for missed performances.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at scheduled rehearsal times is mandatory.

Please come to rehearsals with your notes learned so that rehearsal time is collaborative. Bring any problem spots to the attention of the instructor for additional help. Consistent lack of preparation may result in exclusion from performances and will be reflected in your grade.

Grade penalties for absences and tardies:

1st Unexcused Absence	Grade of "0" for attendance and participation that day.
2nd Unexcused Absence, and each subsequent unexcused absence	Letter grade will be lowered one letter.
3rd Unexcused Absence	Student will forfeit participation in the nearest upcoming performance. Still eligible for an attendance grade at the performance if they attend as an audience member.
Tardy of 5 minutes or more	Grade of "0" for attendance that day. Still eligible for full participation grade.
4th tardy of 5 minutes or more	Letter grade will be lowered one letter.

Excused absences will be considered under the following circumstances:

      serious or contagious illness,

family emergency (limited to immediate family),

participation in a UT Tyler-sanctioned event, if the instructor is informed at least two weeks in advance,

observance of religious holy days,

any other unavoidable circumstances in which the instructor deems an excuse is justified.

See University policies on Excused Absences and absences for pregnant and parenting students.

Except in emergency situations, students **must** contact the instructor prior to the rehearsal time in order to receive consideration for an excused absence.

In the case of an excused absence, students are permitted to submit a 2-minute video of themselves practicing the orchestra music to earn participation points (but not attendance points) back for the day.

In case of injury preventing a student from playing their instrument, the student will still be expected to attend the rehearsal and will be given an alternate assignment.

Course Calendar (subject to change)

Week 1 – January 12	First Rehearsal, 6-8pm. Review Syllabus and pass out music.
Week 2 – January 19	No class – MLK Day All students will submit a playing video to receive credit for class. See Canvas assignment for details.
Week 3 – January 26	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm *Census Date*
Week 4 – February 2	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm
Week 5 – February 9	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm
Week 6 – February 16	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm
Week 7 – February 23	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm
Week 8 – March 2	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm
March 9-13	**SPRING BREAK**
Week 9 – March 16	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm With UT Wind/Brass/Percussion
Week 10 – March 23	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm With UT Wind/Brass/Percussion
March 24	**UT Music Department Collage Concert. Call time TBD.**
Week 11 – March 30	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm Combined with TJC Ensemble @ UT Tyler FAC 1221

	Last day to Withdraw
Week 12 – April 6	Monday Rehearsal, 6-8pm Combined with TJC Ensemble @ UT Tyler FAC 1221
Week 13 – April 13	Final Dress Rehearsal TJC Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center
April 14	Combined Performance, Friday @ 7:30pm. Call time 6:00 pm TJC Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center
Week 14 – April 21	Final Class
Week 15 – April 27	FINALS WEEK – NO CLASS

Student Resources

All student resources and university policies and information can be found on the course canvas page.

UT Tyler AI Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is not permitted at all. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course content (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for any assignment.