



College of Arts and Sciences

MUEN 3138-110, 11090, String Methods

Spring 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

1/19/2021 - 5/14/2021

This is a 100% online course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. Class will also meet in the String Methods Meeting Room on Zoom. You will receive the Zoom invitation via email.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Alexander Corbett

Office: PAC 3530 (Temple College)

Phone: 254-298-8552

Email: alexander.corbett@tamuct.edu

Office Hours

Virtual, by appointment. Since we cannot meet in person this semester, I am always happy to arrange a telephone call or video meeting. If you would like to do this, please email me.

Student-instructor interaction

I check and reply to emails frequently, so please use email to contact me.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield

through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course

activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description

This course will provide students with a foundation for teaching beginning strings, particularly as it relates to leading string ensembles as music teachers.

Course Objective or Goal

It is the goal of this course that, by the end of the semester, students will feel confident teaching a classroom of beginning string students. Students will develop teaching skills on the violin, viola, cello, and double bass, gaining an understanding of bowing, fingering, and posture. Students will also become familiar with score reading, tuning, sizing, accessories, and basic maintenance specific to string instruments.

Materials

Students will have access to Temple College's string instrument collection. The instructor will email information about picking up and returning the instruments to Temple College.

- Instruments must **always** be stored in room temperature environments. To prevent damage and/or theft, **never leave an instrument in a parked car.**
- Every so often string instruments will go badly out of tune. If this happens to you and you are not comfortable putting the instrument back in tune yourself (we will not study tuning until later in the semester), please email Dr. Corbett to arrange a time to meet him at school so he can put the instrument back in tune.

Textbook

You are not required to purchase a textbook for this course. However, I encourage students to purchase the following optional textbook, as it will serve as an invaluable resource for future string educators. There will be no assigned readings from it during the semester.

Donald L. Hamann & Robert Gillespie, *Strategies for Teaching Strings: Building a Successful String and Orchestra Program*, any edition (1st-4th). Published by Oxford.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Format

This course will be taught online using Canvas (<https://tamuct.instructure.com>) and Zoom. The Zoom invitation will be emailed to you. There will be two components to the course:

1. Weekly 30-minute private lessons on Mondays or Tuesdays
 - These will take place on Zoom.
 - The instructor will contact students to sign up for a weekly lesson time.
2. Full class meetings on Wednesdays at 3:30-4:20 p.m.
 - These will take place on Zoom.
 - The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the materials listed on Canvas for each week and to clarify concepts discussed in private lessons. The materials include videos, diagrams, and readings about pedagogy, maintenance, fractional-size instruments, accessories, music acquisition, and more. Each week's materials will become available one week in advance.

Attendance/Participation

Because this is an experience-based course, participation makes up a majority of your final grade. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and preparedness for your classes and private lessons. If you absolutely must miss a class or lesson, be sure to inform the instructor in advance of the class or lesson in question.

All absences will lower the final grade according to the point system below (see "Grading Policies"). The only exception is if the absence is deemed legitimate per TAMUCT policy (i.e. illness or family emergency).

Assignments

Individual Practice (not graded):

- As a musician, you are well aware that practice is essential to maintaining and improving one's level of playing. Students are expected to adhere to this universal truth and practice their instruments however long it takes to become comfortable with the techniques discussed in lessons. For some, this is 30 minutes daily. For others, it is 60 minutes daily. **You** are responsible for determining the amount of practice time needed to adequately learn the required techniques.
- Although individual practice is not graded, **preparedness** is. Show up to your lessons prepared. Take out your instrument **daily** to review what we've discussed.

Reading/Watching (not graded):

- The reading/watching for each week will appear on Canvas one week in advance of when we will discuss it at a Wednesday class meeting. Read/watch everything **prior** to the Wednesday class meeting.
- Although the reading/watching is not graded, **preparedness** is. Be sure you have read/watched all the materials prior to the Wednesday class meeting so you are prepared to discuss it.

Concert Reaction Paper (graded):

- Details appear in the Concert Reaction Paper module on Canvas.
- **The paper is due on Canvas by 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021**

Midterm Examination (graded):

- Two portions:
 1. Performance: You will video record yourself playing the instrument you were assigned for lessons. The instructor will assign performance material during the weeks leading up to the examination. The video does not have to be professionally recorded; a video recorded with your phone is acceptable. **The performance video is due on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. on Canvas.**
 2. Written: This online test will appear on Canvas and will consist of material discussed in class and lessons. Examples include string instrument parts, pedagogical information, and string-related musical terminology. **The written portion will be made available on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. and be due on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.**

Final Examination (graded):

- Two portions:
 1. Performance: You will video record yourself playing the instrument you were assigned for lessons. The instructor will assign performance material during the weeks leading up to the examination. The video does not have to be professionally recorded; a video recorded with your phone is acceptable. **The performance video is due on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. on Canvas.**
 2. Written: This online test will appear on Canvas and will consist of material discussed in class and lessons. Examples include information about pedagogy and string instrument maintenance. **The written portion will be made available on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. and be due on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.**

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas.

Grading Policies

A-F. Final grades will be based on the following 1000-point system:

- 620 points for class/lesson participation, broken up as follows:
 - attendance (31 classes/lessons x 10 points each)
 - preparedness (31 classes/lessons x 10 points each)
- 100 points for Concert Reaction Paper
- 100 points for Midterm Examination
- 180 points for Final Examination

(NOTE: Items turned in late will receive a 10% deduction per day.)

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

A	900 - 1000 points
B	800 - 899 points
C	700 - 799 points
D	650 - 699 points
F	0 - 649 points

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Week 1	Syllabus, Canvas, unpacking string instruments
Week 2	Lessons, string instrument clefs, parts, posture
Week 3	Lessons, bow holds, right elbow levels, rules for getting a good sound
Week 4	Lessons, left hand rules, left elbow levels, left hand technique
Week 5	Lessons, technique vocabulary, positions and shifting, order to teach items
Week 6	Lessons, tuning
Week 7	Lessons, review for midterm
Week 8	Lessons, Midterm Examination (no Wednesday class meeting)
Week 9	Lessons, changing strings
Week 10	Lessons, fractional size instruments, fingerboard tapes, instrument maintenance/cleaning, mutes
Week 11	Lessons, rosin, bow rehairs, where to purchase instruments/accessories
Week 12	Lessons, string music acquisition, TMEA/UIIL websites
Week 13	Lessons, lesson plans
Week 14	Lessons, tuning, Concert Reaction Paper due
Week 15	Lessons, review for final
Week 16	Final Examination (no Wednesday class meeting), return instruments to school

Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

You will need access to Canvas (<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>) and to Zoom (<https://zoom.us>) in order to successfully complete this course.

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request Dynamic Form](#) through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender-including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question,

contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together

research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.