

**Course Syllabus**  
**MUS-42: Instrumental Ensemble**  
**Fall 2021**

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**Instructor:** Christine Keenan

**Office Location:** MUS 175/Zoom ID: 952 9011 5343

**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00am-12:00pm (in person)  
TTh 2:00-3:00pm (Zoom) and by appointment

**Phone number:** (559) 494-3000 x3280

**Email:** [christine.keenan@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:christine.keenan@reedleycollege.edu)



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**Schedule:**

MW, 2:00 - 2:50 p.m., 1-2 hours per week arranged  
1-2 units

**Location:**

MUS 170

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**Important Dates**

January 21: Last day to drop for full a refund

January 30: Last day to add/Last day to drop without a “W” on WebAdvisor

March 11: Final drop deadline (grades assigned after this date)

Class will not meet: January 17 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 21 (Washington Day), April 11-13 (Spring recess)

If class is canceled other than the stated dates, there will either be advance notice given by the instructor, or an official announcement placed on the classroom door.

Final exam: Monday, May 16, 2:00-3:50pm (juries) and participation in performance(s)

**Course Description**

This course provides a performance venue for music majors taking weekly individual private lessons on their chosen major instrument which will include historical and cultural investigation of solo and ensemble literature from the 17th through 21st centuries. Students are required to perform solo juries in front of faculty each semester. (1 unit: 1 lecture hour, 1 lab hour each week; 2 units: 1 lecture hour, 3 lab hours each week.) PREREQUISITES: Audition required. ADVISORIES: English 1A or 1AH and Mathematics 3A or 45. (A, CSU, UC) (C-ID MUS 160)

**Course Objectives**

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Discuss the correct musical style that is necessary for each piece of music that is studied.
2. Discuss biographical and historical information about the composers and music that is studied.

3. Drill on the various rhythmic figures necessary to perform the music that is studied.
4. Learn to play scales and etudes in several different major and minor keys.
5. Review and practice the fingerings/positions necessary to perform the music that is studied.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Upon completion of the course, students will:*

1. perform solo and ensemble literature from the 17th-21st centuries on their chosen instrument in an artistic manner with an awareness of self-expression using good technique with stylistic and aesthetic considerations of the historical and cultural period under study.
2. perform scales, chords, etudes, and solo and ensemble literature assigned through individual instruction.
3. write critically, use correct terminology, and synthesize ideas and concepts regarding appropriate music performance practices.

### **Required Materials**

1. Appropriate musical instrument. Some instruments are available for loan.
2. Appropriate musical literature and method book for your instrument (music supplied by the instructor to be returned at the end of the semester)
3. Face mask and instrument cover

### **Assignments**

Students will complete weekly practice assignments based on their lesson progress. Assignments of scales, exercises, études and solo repertoire will be made on an individual basis appropriate to the student's level of ability. Students will perform in at least one student recital and a performance jury each semester. Students are expected to practice and come prepared for their lessons. Regular practice outside of lessons is required and necessary for progress on your instrument. Students may be required to keep a weekly log of their practice session times and content.

### **Grading Criteria**

Every student will participate in masterclass, chamber ensemble rehearsal, and weekly half-hour lessons (if registered for 2 units). Each week students will receive a grade on a scale of 1-10.

Grading will be based on:

- Quality and thoroughness of weekly preparation
- Consistency of preparation and progress
- Quality and quantity of technical material covered
- Quality and quantity of repertoire covered
- Contribution to chamber ensemble rehearsals

Grade Distribution:		Grading Scale:	
Weekly Lesson Grades	50%	90% - 100%	A
Performances and Jury	50%	80% - 89%	B
		70% - 79%	C
		60% - 69%	D
		below 60%	F

### **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance at all class sessions, lessons, and performances is required. This is a skill-based course that requires participation to progress and meet lesson and ensemble obligations. Absences from class sessions will be reflected in your weekly grade. Absences from performances will result in an F for the course. Three tardies constitute an absence. A tardy in excess of 20 minutes is considered an absence.

If an unavoidable conflict arises with a lesson time, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to reschedule. Absences from lessons must be cleared with the instructor at least 24 hours before the scheduled lesson to be considered excused, except in the case of illness or emergencies. Unexcused absences from lessons will result in a failing grade for that week's lesson.

### **Lesson Policy**

To maximize efficiency of time spent in lessons, students should have their instruments assembled, materials ready, and a reed chosen and properly soaked before arriving. Students should arrive at the lesson already "warmed up" so that time can be spent on materials and instruction.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Academic Honesty and Disruption**

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. Consequences for plagiarism include receiving a zero on the assignment for the first offense or an F in the class for repeated offenses, at the instructor's discretion.

Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

### **Changes to the Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change, at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be made in writing and distributed to all members of the class, either in person or electronically.

## **Performance Dates**

Center for Fine and Performing Arts Groundbreaking: February TBD

March Concert: Friday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. @ RC Forum Hall

May Concert: Monday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. @ RC Forum Hall  
Friday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. @ RC Forum Hall

Other performances for campus events TBD

## **Course Outline**

A. Regular, systematic warm-up exercises in several different major and minor keys

1. Scales
2. Arpeggios
3. Fingering drills
4. Chorales

B. Study of etudes and solo literature

C. Rehearsal of standard chamber ensemble music repertoire

D. Discussion of information on composers

1. Style period
2. Birth and death dates
3. Historical significance
4. Other important compositions

## **Lab Outline**

Lab content supports lecture content. Students practice skills learned during lecture. These skills include:

1. Intonation
2. Pitch accuracy
3. Rhythmic accuracy
4. Correct phrasing
5. Balance of sections
6. Dynamics
7. Style and interpretation