

**MUE 6931 Instructional Design in Music Education
University of Florida
Course Syllabus Fall 2025**

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Office Hours: MT Pd. 4 10:40am-11:30am; other times available by appointment

Credits: 3
Class meeting time: W Period 9-11
(4:05pm-7:05pm)

Course Description

This course engages students in examining the nature of teaching and learning from a constructivist perspective and designing learning experiences at the program, course, unit, and lesson levels. Emphasis throughout the course is placed on designing instruction around the goals of deep understanding of fundamental concepts and mastery of core skills, assessing student progress throughout the learning process, and differentiating levels of challenge and support to address students' diverse interests, abilities, and cultures.

Course Learning Outcomes

Through full participation in this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate what music curriculum is and how it relates to both theory and practice.
2. Identify the elements of Understanding by Design used in curriculum development.
3. Create a curriculum map for a past, current, or future teaching context that provides both scope and sequence of musical knowledge and skill development over a long-term period of time.
4. Create a unit plan for teaching and learning of a collection of music that is consistent with the curriculum map project and utilizing Understanding by Design concepts including enduring understandings and essential questions.
5. Create a repertoire- or concept-based music learning plan based on the unit plan project that demonstrates alignment among the curriculum map, musical elements in the music, objectives, standards, assessments, and teaching-learning processes.
6. Create accommodations or modifications in a music learning plan for one or more students with special needs.
7. Apply a universal design strategy in the learning plan teaching-learning process.

Textbooks

Required:

- McTighe, J., & Willis, J. (2019). *Upgrade your teaching: Understanding by design meets neuroscience*. ASCD.
- Shaw, B. (2018). *Music assessment for better ensembles*. Oxford University Press.
- Additional readings will be posted to Canvas.

Required Computer Capabilities

Throughout the semester we will use Canvas, Microsoft Word, and Zoom as needed. To use these resources, you will need to have a computer. The Microsoft software is available for free for you to use as a UF student. It is expected that you have a working computer and that all assignments are typed and submitted as a **Word Document** unless otherwise noted.

A Canvas course will be used in this class as a means to disseminate information and for assignment submissions and grading. To access it use a web browser of your choice and use the following URL: <https://ufl.instructure.com/>
Selected readings and other resources may be placed on reserve in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/music/>

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA POLICIES

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found [here](#).

Students Requesting Accommodations due to Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honor Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for the completion of assignments is not permitted unless the instructor has given you written permission. When written permission is given, guidelines and expectations will be provided. Using AI without permission from the instructor will be considered in violation of the honor code as stated above.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

UF Grading Policies

Current UF grading policies can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the

publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Attendance at all course meetings and practicum days is expected and required as a part of your enrollment in this class. Active participation in class activities is critical to the achievement of the learning objectives for this course, and many class activities cannot be effectively replicated for make-up work outside of class interactions. In addition, attendance at professional commitments (such as class meetings) is a critical dispositional skill for music teachers.

The University of Florida recognizes the following acceptable reasons for absence from class: illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). The University also recognizes the right of instructors to require documentation for absences other than religious holidays.

The music education faculty recognize that it is occasionally necessary for students to be absent from class for reasons other than those listed above. Personal commitments, self-care, and balancing workload are necessities for all people, including students and teachers. As developing teachers, however, it is important that students develop the ability to navigate these challenges while still fulfilling their professional obligations. Therefore, the faculty have adopted the following attendance policies:

- Absences for reasons recognized by the University of Florida (listed above) are always excused with proper documentation. Documentation must be provided to the instructor no later than two weeks after the student returns to class. This includes absences for illness. Note: A Verification of Visit form from the Student Health Care Center is not considered a medical excuse note. See the SHCC's policy on excuse notes [here](#).
- Each undocumented or personal absence will incur a 5% deduction from the final course grade.
- If a student is late to a class meeting without a documented and approved reason, they will be considered tardy. Three tardies will result in a 3% deduction from the final course grade.

Class Participation

The activities that will occur during class meetings are essential to meeting the course objectives. Your verbal skills, critical and creative thinking abilities, and overall understanding will be directly affected by the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of your contributions to the class. The dynamics of this course and its ultimate value to you necessitate that you to come to each class prepared (having read assignments, when applicable), contribute questions and comments to stimulate discussions, and fully engage in the content and activities of each class meeting.

Communications

Students are expected to check their UF email account daily for course announcements. All communication is expected to be professional and courteous. When contacting a professor, GA, or classmate, please begin your email with a greeting and sign your name at the conclusion of the message. If you send an email to the professor or a GA during the week (M-F), you can expect a reply within 24 hours (barring any extenuating circumstances). We will respond to emails sent between Friday at 5pm and Monday at 8am as we are able.

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are due on the date specified. Late work will not be accepted. Accommodations, modifications, and extensions may be provided on a case-by-case basis upon communication with and approval of the instructor.

In addition to all assigned course readings, students will complete the following assignments and projects. Additional information about them will be provided in class. All written assignments will be typed and submitted through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

ASSESSMENTS

Weekly Reading Reflections	25%
Weekly Class Preparation and Participation	25%
Program Curriculum Map	4%
Course Map	5%
Unit Plan (Stages 1, 2, and 3)	15%
Lesson plans	10%
Performance Assessment	3%
Knowledge Assessment	3%
Unit Plan Presentation	10%

Grading Scale

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	E

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

MUE 6931 Instructional Design in Music Education Course Calendar

UbD = Understanding by Design Meets Neuroscience

Shaw = Music Assessment for Better Ensembles

BB = The Case for Constructivist Classrooms (PDF on Canvas)

Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments
Week 2 8/25	Teaching and Learning Duke ch. 1 (read before class) In class reading: UbD Ch. 1 The Aspirational Curriculum Map	
Week 4 9/8	Teaching and Learning BB Ch. 1, 2, & 3 (pp. 3-31) UbD Ch. 2	DRAFT – Program Curriculum Map Week 4 Reading Reflection
Week 5 9/15	Zooming Out: The Big Picture Course Goals and Objectives	Program Curriculum Map FINAL Week 5 Reading Reflection
Week 6 9/22	Zooming Out: The Big Picture Essential Questions Enduring Understandings	DRAFT – Course Goals and Learning Objectives (for course map) Week 6 Reading Reflection
Week 7 9/29	Zooming Out: The Big Picture	DRAFT – Course Modules and Assessments (for course map) Week 7 Reading Reflection
Week 8 10/6	Evidence-Based Teaching AMT and WHERE TO	Revised Course Map (all components) Week 8 Reading Reflection
Week 9 10/13	Evidence-Based Teaching	Unit Plan Stage 1 - DRAFT Week 9 Reading Reflection
Week 10 10/20	Assessing Musical Knowledge and Skills Performance Assessments	Unit Plan Stage 1 – REVISION Week 10 Reading Reflection
Week 11 10/27	Assessing Musical Knowledge and Skills Knowledge Assessments	Unit Plan Stage 2 - DRAFT Week 11 Reading Reflection
Week 12 11/3	Assessing Musical Knowledge and Skills	Unit Plan Stage 2 – Revision Performance Assessment Week 12 Reading Reflection
Week 13 11/10	Teaching Everyone Universal Design for Learning	Knowledge Assessment Week 13 Reading Reflection
Week 14 11/17	Teaching Everyone Accommodations and Modifications	Lesson Plans Week 14 Reading Reflection
Week 15	Teaching Everyone	Lesson Plans

12/1		Week 15 Reading Reflection
Final 12/10 5:30pm	Unit Presentations	Unit Plan – FINAL Course Map - RESUBMIT

This calendar is a guide and will be modified as needed.