

SAXOPHONE PEDAGOGY

MVW 4640

Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Helton (jhelton@ufl.edu)

Meeting Time: Once per week, TBS. UA 300C.

Should we ever need to hold a class online: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Dr. Helton's Office Hours: As listed on the weekly lesson schedule, or by appointment. In-person, or online at [Zoom Office Hour Link](#). Online meetings must be scheduled in advance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the many aspects of music teaching with particular emphasis placed on teaching saxophone technique and repertoire. Prerequisite: MVW 3435

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will have a broad understanding of the art of teaching music performance.

teach, inspire, model, create, construct, model, tools to inspire, knowledge to make pertinent/appropriate rep choices...

TEXTBOOKS

Jonathan Helton – *Teaching Beginning Saxophonists: A sequential approach*. n.p. Sixth Edition, 2019.

Arthur Hegvik – *Modern Course for the Saxophone, Volume I*. Henri Elkan Music Publishing Co., 1971.

Many other resources will be consulted during the course of the semester. The instructor will provide many of them for reference, but it may be necessary to purchase a few.

EVALUATION

Grades will be based on the following weighting scale:

Preparation for classes and presentations 30%

Periodic Assignments 30%

Final Project 40%

Grading Scale:

94-100 A	81-83 B-	68-70 D+
91-93 A-	78-80 C+	61-67 D
88-90 B+	74-77 C	0-66 E
84-87 B	71-73 C-	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at classes is integral to the nature of the teaching and learning process, and is required.

Occasionally, a lesson may be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor and if time allows. Advance notice must be given for any rescheduling. Make-up and lessons rescheduled at the student's request that are missed will not be made up. In the event of travel conflicts, homework may be assigned to keep up with the course material. Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES SUMMARY, ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- I. Class Attendance
- II. Completion of all assignments
- III. Final written project, due on the last day of classes

MATERIALS AND SUPPLY FEE

\$0.00

COURSE EVALUATION

Course evaluations are very helpful. They can help professors tailor the class to meet student needs, and they can help good professors be recognized through promotion and tenure. 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/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

To support consistent and accessible communication of university-wide student resources, the university has collected information on Academic Policies, Academic Resources, and Campus Health and Wellness Resources together at this link: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

CLASS OUTLINE

The class will meet once per week. Meeting time TBA.

Classes falling on a University holiday will not be made up at another time. Assignment due dates will not be affected.

Spring 2026 Weekly Schedule

Week 1 - Week of January 12	Introduction to the Course
Week 2 - Week of January 19	Resources for Teaching
Week 3 - Week of January 26	Why Teach? How do students learn?
Week 4 - Week of February 2	Teaching Philosophy, Syllabus
Week 5 - Week of February 9	The Making of a Good Teacher: Inspiration, Modeling, Method
Week 6 - Week of February 16	What You Say Matters
Week 7 - Week of February 23	Teaching Materials: Choosing Thoughtfully
Week 8 - Week of March 2	Saxophone Teaching Techniques
Week 9 - Week of March 9	Teaching Demonstration I
----- - Week of March 16	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week 10 - Week of March 23	Chamber Music Teaching, Ensemble Conducting, Choosing Repertoire
Week 11 - Week of March 30	Teaching Musicality
Week 12 - Week of April 6	Teaching Demonstration II
Week 13 - Week of April 13	Teaching the Repertoire (Instructor presentation)
Week 14 - Week of April 20	Teaching Demonstration III

ASSIGNMENTS

Teaching Resource Annotated Bibliography, Due January 30
Teaching Philosophy and model Syllabus, Due February 13
Etude Curriculum, Due March 13
Teaching Demonstrations, Weeks of March 9, April 6, April 20
Final Project, Due April 22 (see next page)

FINAL PROJECT

Due: Midnight, April 22, via email.

The final project will include:

Your Teaching Philosophy

An annotated bibliography of resources for teaching

Notes on teaching techniques learned in the class

Notes on guest masterclasses

An etude curriculum

A repertoire list that includes:

- Two recital programs suitable for high school (pre-collegiate) students
- Four recital programs suitable for university-level players, two at the Junior level, two at the senior level
- Four recital programs suitable for graduate students, two at the Master's level, two at the Doctoral level

Required Concert/Event Attendance

February 5, 1:55-3:50, MUB 101, Drew Hosler, Guest Artist Masterclass. Saxophone, Cleveland Institute

March 23, 12:50 pm, MUB 142, Leigh Muñoz, Guest Artist Masterclass, Bassoon, UMKC

Dates and class content/requirements subject to change.

Syllabus updates will be communicated via email.

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