

**ISU Symphony Orchestra**  
Syllabus – MUS 181, Spring 2021  
(1 credit)

Primary Instructor	Dr. Jonathan Govias Office: Music Hall 109
	In light of the continuing pandemic, I will not be maintaining student hours this semester. Please feel free to email me, ( <a href="mailto:jgovias@iastate.edu">jgovias@iastate.edu</a> ), or we can set up a time to teleconference via Zoom, Webex or Skype (jgovias). You may also text my mobile at 617.304.6458.
Why you need this	This syllabus is intended to help you be successful in this course by communicating important dates, establishing expectations, and by outlining codes of preparation and conduct to create a positive, productive learning atmosphere for all participants. It will assist you in understanding how your participation and performance relate to your evaluation. I may have to change this syllabus over the semester, but I will provide written notification by Canvas when I do so. By staying registered in this class, you acknowledge that you have read this syllabus and agree to abide by it.
Scheduled Times	Tuesday / Thursday: 4:25-6:15pm, Simon Estes Music Hall, MET Recital Hall Rm. 140
Unscheduled Times	Additional rehearsals and performances outside the scheduled class time will be required. Changes, with the exception of cancellations outside of ISU's control, will be communicated at the earliest opportunity.
Course Materials	All printed performance materials will be supplied by ISU. All materials relating to the proper maintenance and functioning of your instrument are your responsibility. You will also need to bring a music stand and mask to rehearsals.
Course Description	ISU Symphony Orchestra is an ensemble performing music from across the chamber, symphonic, choral, and operatic repertoires. As a musical group, it is devoted to the exploration, in rehearsal and performance, of the repertoire of the orchestra, and of the art and science of cohesive, integrated musical interaction.
Course Objectives	Through participation in orchestra, students will expand their technical and artistic capabilities. They will acquire enhanced audition and performance experience, engage with a wide spectrum of orchestra repertoire, and develop collaborative sensitivities.
Course Expectations	If you haven't played in a University-level orchestra before, expectations can be quite different from high school groups. This isn't a string technique class, or a woodwind or percussion class. Rehearsals are not used to teach participants how to play their instruments or learn their parts. We use the time to learn repertoire, and how to play together as a group. If you are having trouble with your part, your first resource is your private instructor. If you don't have a private instructor, talk to me about getting the right kind of help.
Student Conduct	In order to foster a healthy learning environment, students are expected to be respectful towards each other and the instructor, and should be familiar with the <i>ISU Code of Student Responsibility</i> , which can be accessed at <a href="https://knowthecode.dso.iastate.edu/code-of-conduct">https://knowthecode.dso.iastate.edu/code-of-conduct</a>

## Requirements

1. It's not an exaggeration; everyone is counting on you. Please show up. Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of a full letter grade. Performances and listed dress or acoustic dress rehearsals constitute final examinations: any unexcused absences in these instances may yield a final course grade of F.
2. Show up on time. Rehearsal will start at the times listed. Each 15-minute period after the start of rehearsal that a student is late will result in a final grade reduction of one-third of a letter grade.
3. Show up prepared to the highest level of your ability and equipped to a professional standard. Part preparation must be complete by stated deadlines. Additionally, poor performance in concert can result in deductions up to a full letter grades, depending on the severity or extent of the deficiency.

## Excused absences

Orchestra is the musical equivalent of a team sport. You need to show up, unless you're sick, experiencing a family emergency, or have an academic conflict you brought to my attention at least four weeks before, a conflict that the Department was unable to resolve. If you have a health condition that could affect your attendance on more than one occasion, please bring appropriate documentation. If you have a major family emergency, please work with the Office of the Dean of Students or relevant campus agency to have the situation properly communicated to all your teachers. If you would like to ask for an absence to be excused in advance, your request has to be made by the online form at <http://bit.ly/isuorchabsent>, regardless of any conversation you may have with me.

## Music and Materials

As a consequence of the pandemic, all materials distributed this year will be photocopies, in either bound books or paper folders. This will be given to you at no charge, and will not need to be returned. However, you are still responsible for having your own music at every rehearsal. Should your materials need to be replaced, you will have to accept the cost of the replacements.

To minimize potential contamination through points of common contact, all students will need to bring their own stands for all rehearsals and concerts.

Masks are required at all times, with the exception of winds and brass players *when actively playing*. At all other times, musicians are expected to wear masks. For woodwinds and brass, please use discretion and common sense to determine when to put your mask back on in the event of multi-measure rests.

Wind players must use a waterproof device to collect any condensation produced by their instrument through the normal course of playing. Leaving condensation on stage during this pandemic is a serious health hazard, and would contravene Article 4 of the University Covid requirements.

## Concert Dress

The standard for orchestra is black jacket, tuxedo or tailcoat, white dress shirt, black bow tie, (white for tailcoat only) black dress shoes, black socks. If you choose to wear a waistcoat, it must be either black (tuxedo) or white (tailcoat), and in no case may it extend below the front of the jacket. Absolutely none of the following striped or any colour but black: cummerbunds, suspenders, bowties. If you choose to wear a skirt or dress, it must be all black, with black dress shoes.

This rule applies *regardless of gender identity*, and is intended to eliminate the current gender bias in dress codes.

Dress restrictions: there are no rules about "minimum hem/neckline length" or similar, but if you keep adjusting your clothing to keep yourself decent, then it's not the right thing to wear.

If you perform a concert improperly dressed, you will lose a full letter grade.

Student wellness	<p>There are no heroes in music, only survivors. Playing hurt/sick isn't "professional," it's just...not smart. If it hurts, a) stop playing b) let me know immediately c) go to the Student Health Center, the Counseling Center, or your family doctor. I'm the wrong kind of doctor for this, but I can help you find the right one if you need any assistance.</p>
Basically...	<p>Show up on time, learn your part on time and be respectful and supportive of your colleagues (that team sport thing again.) If you can't do this for any legitimate reason, then communicate as early and often as possible. And it's not a legitimate reason, it will negatively affect your grade, or I might ask you to leave the class, especially if what you're doing is disruptive.</p> <p>Beyond the Code of Student Conduct, the University has policies on accommodations for reasons relating to religion or disability, among others. All of these policies are intended to promote an inclusive, tolerant, ethical, and constructive learning environment. The University is committed to being respectful of your thoughts and your person. It's important you read these policies so you know how you are protected and respected but also so you are aware of what your own responsibilities are in turn. Continuation registration in this course indicates you have read the policies and are willing to abide by them.</p>
Grading	<p>Music Majors/Minors: Aside from deductions for absences or late arrival, 10% of the student grade is allocated to the audition with between 80-90% allocated to the timely preparation and delivery of parts in rehearsal for each concert. For non- music majors/minors, part preparation counts for all of your grade (aside from deductions for absences or late arrivals) with the "Additional Assignments" exception noted below.</p> <p>Strings: your grade will be determined in large part by your performance in "pass-throughs" at least twice per semester (so once per concert cycle). I will ask you to play excerpts from the current repertoire in time with a metronome, the tempo not to exceed the tempo of the concert, with accuracy of pitch, intonation, and rhythm (plus accurate bowings, for strings.) Since each musician is at a different level, there is no one set metronome mark for the full ensemble. I am happy to assist students in setting appropriate goals if asked in advance.</p> <p>Each pass-through is worth a letter grade. If I have to ask you to resubmit the pass-through, you'll lose half a letter grade. If the resubmission is not at an appropriate standard, I will ask you to submit again with the loss of another half letter grade.</p> <p>For Spring 2021, Pass-throughs will be managed by video only. I will give you one week's notice of what excerpts I would like you to play, and you will be responsible for sending me a video of you performing them <i>with an audible metronome</i> by the posted deadline. If you submit the video late, it will be considered a "resubmission" with appropriate penalties. Passthroughs not submitted one calendar week before a concert will result in a penalty of a full letter grade.</p> <p>Due to the soloistic nature of winds, brass and percussion in the orchestra, evaluation of these students is monitored on an on-going basis. I may still ask students in these instrument groups to submit a pass-through: regardless, following the designated pass-through period I will expect every musician in the orchestra to have reasonable command of the assigned part.</p> <p>If you're not sure how best to practice, the only advice I have to offer is</p> <p>PRACTICE SLOWLY WITH A METRONOME. That is all.</p>

Additional assignments	On occasion I may ask you to complete an online poll or listening assignment by a certain deadline. If you don't do this by the deadline, you will lose half a letter grade.
Evaluation tools	If you don't know whether you know your part, you probably shouldn't be in this class. You are expected to know whether you have achieved a reasonable level of part mastery. If you have any doubts, please make an appointment to play for me outside of class time, before pass-throughs. I will use a variety of tools to evaluate the performance of students. These include any combination of observations during rehearsals, audio recordings, video recordings, or playing tests conducted outside of rehearsal time by appointment.
Exception to the Code of Student Conduct	Unlike traditional academic classes, students are actively encouraged to plagiarize the playing of industry leaders, such as Itzhak Perlman, Gil Shaham, Yo-Yo Ma, Kim Kashkashian (NOT KARDASHIAN), Edgar Meyer, Emmanuel Pahud, etc.
Grading Scales/Methods	This course uses the following grading scale: A = 100-92 B = 91-83 C = 82-74 D = 73-65 F = 64-0
First Amendment Policy	Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

## COVID-19 health and safety requirements

Students are responsible for abiding by the university's [COVID-19 health and safety expectations](#). All students attending this class in-person are required to follow university [policy](#) regarding health, safety, and face coverings:

1. wear a cloth face covering in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces. Cloth face coverings are additionally required to be worn indoors in all university buildings, and outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others is not possible. Students with a documented health or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a cloth face covering should consult with [Student Accessibility Services](#) in the Dean of Students Office.
2. ensure that the cloth face covering completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the side of the face.
3. practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
4. assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment.
5. not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
6. not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.
7. follow the instructor's guidance with respect to these requirements. Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.

These requirements extend outside of scheduled class time, including coursework in laboratories, studios, and other learning spaces, and to field trips. These requirements may be revised by the university at any time during the semester.

Faculty may refer matters of non-compliance to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action, which can include restrictions on access to, or use of, university facilities; removal from university housing; required transition to remote-only instruction; involuntary disenrollment from one or more in-person courses; and such other measures as necessary to promote the health and safety of campus.

It is important for students to recognize their responsibility in promoting the health and safety of the Iowa State University community, through actions both on- and off-campus. The university's faculty asks that you personally demonstrate a commitment to our Cyclones Care campaign. Iowa State University's faculty support the Cyclones Care campaign and ask you personally to demonstrate a commitment to our campaign. Your dedication and contribution to the campaign will also protect your classmates and friends, as well as their friends and families.