This class will introduce you to the basics of playing the stringed instruments of the orchestra, as well as guitar skills used in elementary music education situations.

Your grade is based on individual "juries," during which you will play an assigned piece of music in front of the class, after which the class will critique your playing and offer suggestions for improvement. These will occur daily, after group practice of the assigned pieces. There will also be a written quiz (or two). The breakdown is: 70% juries, 30% quiz. The grades will be distributed as follows: A 90-100; B 80-89; C 70-79; D 65-69; F 0-64. No final examination will be given.

As you can see, regular attendance is mandatory, otherwise you will be irretrievably behind schedule. Each day’s absence counts as an F grade on your jury. Students who wish to make up juries may do so at my convenience.

All students are required to attend one concert of orchestral music or string chamber music. An official program from this concert must be turned in. Failure to attend this concert will lower your grade by one letter.

Since the bulk of the material in class is about performance and techniques of performance, I urge you to bring a pencil so you can write down the advice given to help you perform better. If you follow the instructions you will improve, and your jury grades will reflect that improvement. If you don’t at least try to follow the instructions, your grades will be poor.

Materials for the class are: Anderson/Frost, All for Strings, Book 1, Score and Manual; Snyder, Basic Instructor Guitar, Vol. 1. Schedule of assignments depends on class size.

We will spend about half the class sessions on bowed strings, and half on the guitar. Bowed string instruments and accessories will be signed out to you (lose anything, we will find you and bill you; not pretty); guitars, however, are your responsibility to beg, borrow, or purchase.

WITHDRAWALS: All students may withdraw from this class without penalty by midsemester. A W will appear on the student’s transcript.

DISABILITIES: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on disabilities must first contact the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT) or email: haynemd@auburn.edu. Students needing accommodations should then arrange a meeting with me the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting, where we will discuss
items needed in this class.