

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**MUSC-187**  
**Instrumental Techniques - Strings**  
**2 Semester Hours**

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

This course introduces students to the string instrument family. Students will learn about the instruments' historical and acoustical background as well as how to play each instrument. Basic concepts of teaching, methods and suggested materials for use, and techniques of individual and classroom instruction will also be introduced. Students should possess musicianship skills and proficiency on one or more instruments/voice. (3 hours weekly)

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify specific idiosyncrasies of the string family as a group and each of its members individually
2. Identify and resolve problems that may arise in playing and teaching each instrument
3. Select and maintain equipment
4. Play each instrument in the family proficiently
5. Identify pedagogical literature

**Major Topics**

- I. Historical and acoustical background
- II. Standard skills required for playing each of the instruments in the string family
  - a. Posture and hand position
  - b. Bowing
  - c. Fingerings and articulation
  - d. Other applicable areas
- III. Teaching methods, including suggested materials for use and troubleshooting problems
- IV. How to select and maintain equipment
  - a. Instruments
  - b. Bows and strings
  - c. Accessories (i.e. mutes, etc.)
- V. Playing the instruments
  - a. Violin
  - b. Viola
  - c. Cello
  - d. String Bass
- VI. Pedagogical Literature

**Course Requirements**

Grading will be based on participation, and skills development. Quizzes &/or tests will be administered according to the individual teacher.

**Other Course Information**

This course is an Arts & Sciences, Fine Arts, Humanities and Music Elective.