

Sul Ross State University
Brass Techniques – Fall 2014
MUS1114

Instructor: Chris Dobbins
Office: FAB 103
Office Hours: TBD
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Class Time: T-Th 2:00 – 2:50 pm, FAB 100

Course Description

This course is designed to give the student basic skills in playing brass instruments and prepare the student to be an effective and knowledgeable teacher of brass instruments. Emphasis will be placed on performance and pedagogy, and will familiarize the student with the resources available to supplement the information that is presented in class.

Textbook and Materials

Required Text: *A Complete Guide to Brass* by Scott Whitener

Notebook or folder for compilation of materials.

Students who do not have a textbook and workbook by the 5th class day will be asked to leave and receive an unexcused absence.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize a characteristic sound on each of the brass instruments.
2. Play each brass instrument at an acceptable level with a characteristic sound
3. Explain solutions to playing and pedagogical problems as they relate to brass instruments.
4. Explain basic historical evolutions of brass instruments.
5. Seek out resources to answer questions and problems beyond their knowledge.

Music Program Learning Objectives

This course is a required course for a major in instrumental music. As such, it helps the student to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes for the major. These learning outcomes include:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
2. the ability to prepare appropriate program notes.
3. the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.
4. a general knowledge of music history

ADA Needs

It is Sul Ross University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in BAB 206 or call 837-8203.

Attendance Policy

Since we have relatively few class meetings, and a great amount of material to cover, attendance is required. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor prior to an absence, or as soon as possible following. Work conflicts are treated as unexcused absences and are not tolerated. Unexcused absences will be treated as follows:

- 1st Absence: Warning
- 2nd Absence: Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3rd Absence: Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4th Absence: Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5th Absence: Expulsion from class

Tardy Policy

Being late to class is disruptive to other students, the teacher, and the learning process. If you enter after the start of class, you are tardy. The start of class is defined as the point at which the teacher begins teaching. Your first tardy is free. After that, every two tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence, and will fall under the attendance policy in effecting your grade. If you are tardy for what you believe is an excusable reason, please speak with me in person after class.

Cell Phone Policy

Class time is limited and use of cell phones causes unneeded distraction to the learning process. Therefore, cell phone use during class is strictly prohibited, and repeated violation of this policy will have an effect on your grade. The following are the grade repercussions for violation of this policy:

- 1st Offense – Warning
- 2nd Offense – Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3rd Offense – Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4th Offense – Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5th Offense – Expulsion from class

Professional Communication Policy

All communication with me should be done via email or my office phone number, both of which are listed at the top of the syllabus, or in person. You will be expected to check your email on a regular basis for communications from me. Facebook is not an acceptable form of professional communication.

Grading

Grades are not given, they are EARNED.

Since this is a skills course, your grade will primarily be based on your performance in class and on playing quizzes, as well as your knowledge of the historical and pedagogical aspects of each instrument.

Students will be given the opportunity to earn points in the following areas:

- Attendance/Participation – 5 pts/day
- Class preparation/daily playing in class – 5 pts/day
 - Incorporate critical evaluation of playing
 - Evidence of daily practice
- Playing quizzes – 50 pts.
- Written projects which include, but are not limited to:
 - Listening “evaluations” – 50 pts.
 - Chapter summaries (in notebook)
 - Quizzes (primarily covering terms and concepts) – 50 pts.
 - Notebook (completeness, organization) – 200 pts.
 - Contains notes, handouts, quizzes, and rubrics for each instrument group.
Will be a valuable teaching resource.
- Final Exam – 100 pts

Each element has a point value. The more important the element, the higher the point value. To determine your percentage grade at any time, add up points earned, and divide by points possible.

Letter grades will be based on the following percentages:

90-100 = A = Excellent

80-89 = B = Good

70-79 = C = Average

60-69 = D = Poor

Below 60 = F = Failure

I = Incomplete

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All Assignments Due at Beginning of Next Class Period

Date	Class Topics	Assignment For Next Class
Aug. 26	Syllabus Overview, How Brass Instruments Work, Mouthpiece	Read Chapter 10
Aug. 28	Tone Production, Pass out Trumpets	Read Ch. 3 and p. 164-167
Sept. 2	Trumpet Day 1 - First notes	Practice 1-11
Sept. 4	RECRUITING - Class Activities TBD	
Sept. 9	Trumpet Day 2 - Articulation and Dynamics	Practice 12 - 23
Sept. 11	Trumpet Day 3 - Refining Playing and Teaching Techniques	Practice 1 - 23
Sept. 16	Trumpet Day 4 - Listening Exam and Review	Practice 25, 26, 32
Sept. 18	Trumpet Written and Playing Test, Turn in Trumpets and Notes	Read Chapter 4 and p. 167-172
Sept. 23	Horn Day 1 - Pass out instruments and First Notes	Practice 1-11
Sept. 25	Horn Day 2 - Articulation and Dynamics	Practice 12 - 23
Sept. 30	Horn Day 3 - Refining Playing and Teaching Techniques	Practice 1-23
Oct. 2	Horn Day 4 - Listening Exam and Review	Practice 25, 26, 32
Oct. 7	Horn Written and Playing Test, Turn in Horns and Notes	Read Chapter 5 and p. 172-175
Oct. 9	Trombone Day 1 - Pass out instruments and First Notes	Practice 1-11
Oct. 14	Trombone Day 2 - Articulation and Dynamics	Practice 12-23
Oct. 16	Trombone Day 3 - Refining Playing and Teaching Techniques	Practice 1-23
Oct. 21	Trombone Day 4 - Listening Exam and Review	Practice 25, 26, 32
Oct. 23	NO CLASS - Mr. D Out of Town	
Oct. 28	Trombone Written and Playing Test, Turn in Trombones and Notes	Read Chs. 6 and 7 and pages 175-178
Oct. 30	Tuba Euphonium Day 1 - Pass out Instruments and First Notes	Practice 1-11
Nov. 4	Tuba Euphonium Day 2 - Articulation and Dynamics	Practice 11-23
Nov. 6	Tuba Euphonium Day 3 - Switch Instruments and First Notes	Practice 1-11
Nov. 11	Tuba Euphonium Day 4 - Articulation and Dynamics	Practice 11-23
Nov. 13	Tuba Euphonium Day 5 - Refining Playing and Teaching Techniques	Practice 25, 26, 32

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Nov. 18	Tuba Euphonium Written, listening, and Playing Exams, Turn in Notes	Read Chapter 13
Nov. 20	Instrument Care	Read Chapter 12
Nov. 25	Getting Started/Teaching Techniques	Notebook Due After Break!!!
Nov. 27	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 2	Turn in Notebooks - Wrap up and Review Material	Study for Exam!
Dec. 4	Optional Review During Class Time	Study for Exam!
Dec. 9	Final Exam at 12:30 pm	Have a good Winter break!