

Brass Applied Lessons Syllabus
MUS 1111, 1211; MUS 3111, 3211
Fall 2021

Professor: Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, D.M.A.

Email: mary.thompson@sulross.edu

Office: FAB 202

Cell Phone: (785) 312-2677

Class Meetings: Virtual meetings, time TBD with instructor

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Fridays by appointment (*all office hours are virtual meetings*)

Course Description

The study of an individual brass instrument and its corresponding repertoire, etudes, scales, and tone studies as well as performance and musicality.

Student Learning Outcomes for Music Majors

SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.

SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes.

SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

This course contributes to addressing these cumulative SLO's.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

After completing this course students should be able to:

- 1) develop their highest possible level of instrumental performance and musicianship both as a soloist and member of an ensemble. (*Skills*)
- 2) demonstrate through study and performance major works from the repertoire. These include concertos, sonatas, solo works, as well as orchestral repertoire and etudes. (*Skills*)
- 3) prepare a foundation of technique through various studies in tone, articulation, and scale exercises. (*Skills*)
- 4) reflect on their own progress and performances and then apply those observations to develop new practice techniques and solutions for those issues in the future. (*Attitudes or Dispositions*)

Marketable Skills

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. *Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.

3. *Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.
4. *Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

*Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with **

Lesson Policies

- Notice must be received by phone or email **24 hours** in advance of a missed lesson. Lessons missed or cancelled by the student are forfeited regardless of reason and will not be rescheduled EXCEPT FOR extreme illness, a musical performance, or an actual emergency. Any unexcused absence could greatly affect the outcome of your final grade. Please be **pro-active** and take care of your health and well-being.
- All lessons missed by your instructor will be rescheduled.
- You are expected to purchase, borrow from the library, or in some way obtain the music assigned by your instructor within **two weeks** of it being assigned to you.

COVID-19 policies

- If a student has been sick with any disease, they must be **fever-free** for at least 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) before attending class in person.
- If a student contracts COVID-19 or is in contact with someone that contracted it, they must follow university policy for reporting and be released from quarantine **before** returning to class in person.
 - In the case of any illness, the student may opt to have their weekly lesson via virtual meeting.
- Though masks will be removed for playing in a lesson (*unless student has a musician's mask*), **wear a mask** to and from your lesson and keep it on for any prolonged talking during the lesson.

Practice

Study of an instrument requires self-discipline and time management. Regular and consistent practice is expected of all students. A **minimum** of 1 hour per day, consisting of 20 minutes of tone and technique exercises and 40 minutes of work on repertoire should be the minimum for all majors. Music minors and non-majors should practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, 10 minutes on exercises and 20 on repertoire. The development of positive muscle memory and musicality requires consistent practice and thought over time; there is no way around this and no way to cram just before a performance to make up for the lack of it.

Practice rooms

Due to health and safety concerns, the downstairs practice rooms will **not** be available for use by students without making prior arrangements with the music faculty. I highly recommend that you find a separate location for practicing, preferably outdoors or a large room. If you find that a practice room is the only option for you, please let me know right away and we will make arrangements.

Recital and Studio Class Attendance

All applied brass music majors and minors are **required** to:

1. Attend all degree performances by music majors.
2. Attend all guest artist and faculty performances.

3. Attend all Music Program studio classes scheduled during the semester.

Attendance at these events is *encouraged* for non-majors.

***Studio classes**-There will be approximately 3-5 Music Program studio classes each semester. A list of these dates will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Attendance is **required** in the Music Program studio classes and all students enrolled in applied woodwind lessons are required to perform on **at least one** of these classes each semester.

Required Equipment

- Internet access (*this service provided on campus*)
- USB microphone (*can be checked out from a music faculty member*)
- A well-maintained instrument
- Assigned music; scale, etude, and tone books
- A metronome and a tuner
- Notebook
- Mask

All students must have a notebook or 3-ring binder and are required to bring it to weekly lessons and to studio classes. The instructor will record weekly lesson assignments in this and the student will bring this to studio classes for the purpose of taking notes and collecting handouts. **Also, students are required to record daily practice sessions (time practiced and material covered) to turn in to the instructor at each lesson.**

Juries

All music majors and minors will play a jury examination at the end of each semester until his or her graduation requirements are fulfilled. The repertoire for a jury will be determined with the instructor and will include scales and contrasting solo works. A jury is optional for non-majors and will be determined by the instructor and the student towards the end of the semester.

**In the event that SRSU goes back online at the end of the semester or the Music faculty feel it necessary, juries will be conducted virtually.*

Grading

- Each student will receive **one “pass”** for a lesson during the semester, in which for any reason (bad day, sickness, headache, etc.) they can use their pass and it will not affect their lesson grade for the semester.
- **Each lesson** will be graded A, B, C, D, or F. This grade will be determined based on your continuous improvement progress, your level of preparedness at each lesson, and your commitment to practicing (yes, it shows!). Each lesson begins with an A and from there, the student’s grade will drop half a letter per unprepared assignment (for example, 1 unprepared etude would result in an A- for that lesson; an unprepared etude, unprepared scale, and unprepared portion of a solo at a single lesson would result in a B-.)
- These grades will be averaged together at the end of the semester and combined with your jury grade (the music faculty’s average grade of your performance) and your attendance at required events to tally the final grade for the course.

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Weekly lesson grade 50%

2. Attendance/participation at required events 20%
3. Jury 30%

Grading Scale

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=below 60

Rehearsing with Accompanist

Students performing pieces with piano accompaniment will be responsible for scheduling rehearsals with their pianist. In order to appropriately rehearse the material, students should expect to meet with the pianist **at least two or three times before an upcoming performance**. At least ONE of those rehearsals should be scheduled so that the instructor can be there (*virtually or in person*) OR one rehearsal should be recorded and sent to the professor for comments. You are responsible for coordinating these rehearsals with the pianist and Dr. Thompson.

Professionalism

Students found to be using any electronic device while attending any performance will have their grade lowered by **one letter**.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner and are expected to fully support and respect each and every member of the studio. Remember that you are representing Sul Ross State University, the Music Program, and yourself at all times. All of your actions define your professionalism and have an impact on how you are perceived by your colleagues and professors now and into the future.

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Special Needs

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students with qualifying disabilities who seek accommodations must initiate a request for a meeting for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Counseling & Accessibility Services, Telephone: 432-837-8203, or E-mail: rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>