

Sul Ross State University  
Member Texas State University System  
Alpine, Texas  
Spring 2023

## Course: MUS 2123 Brass Techniques

Instructor's Name: Chuck Wilson,  
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### About this course:

- This course meets T-Th 2:00-2:50 p.m. in FAB 100 (Band Hall).
- Course Description: This course will provide students with all knowledge necessary to understand and teach brass instrument performance and care. Students will develop a background in brass instrument pedagogy and technique.

### Text and materials:

**REQUIRED:** Purchase (or rent) a *used* or *new* copy, of the following

- *IA Complete Guide to Brass* by Scott Whitener (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)
- **ISBN-10** : 0534509886 **ISBN-13** : 978-0534509880
- Notebook or binder to keep notes organized

### Music Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance [or composition].
- SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance [or composition].

This course contributes to addressing these cumulative SLO's.

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

1. Understand and discuss brass instruments and their historical development.
2. Understand and demonstrate the techniques of playing and teaching brass instruments.
3. Understand and demonstrate the care of brass instruments.
4. Listen to and identify proper tone production on various brass instruments.

### Major Assignments:

- Assignments (notes) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Performance Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Exam & Tests 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

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 brass instruments, 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 approach the teaching of brass instruments and examine their use such as historical context & classroom setting. \*

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with \*

### Grading

30% Daily work (notes, participation)  
30% Exams & Tests  
40% Projects

### Instructor Policies:

- Students are expected to follow university attendance and tardy policies.

### Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

## **Tentative Schedule and Topics to be covered (subject to change):**

Week 1:

- Course introduction, how brass instruments work (read chapter 10)

Week 2:

- Mouthpiece check-out (read chapter 3 and p. 164-167)
- Tone production, pass out trumpets, first notes

Week 3:

- Articulation and dynamics (practice exercise 1-11)
- Practice exercise 12-23
- Refining playing and teaching techniques (practice 25, 26, 32)

Week 4

- Listening exam and review (practice exercises 1-23)
- Trumpet written and playing test, turn in trumpets and notes (read chapter 4 and p. 167-172)

Week 5

- Pass out instruments (french horn) and first notes (practice 1-11)
- Articulation and dynamics (practice 12-23)

Week 6

- Refining playing and teaching techniques (practice 1-23)
- Listening exam and review (practice 25, 26, 32)

Week 7

- Horn written and playing test, turn in horns and notes (read ch. 5 and p. 172-175)
- Pass out instruments (trombone) and first notes (practice 1-11)

Week 8

- Articulation and dynamics (practice 12-23)
- Refining playing and teaching techniques (practice 1-23)

Week 9

- Listening exam and review (practice 25, 26, 32)
- Trombone written and playing test, turn in instruments and notes (read ch. 6 and p. 175-178)

Week 10

- Pass out instruments (euphonium) and first notes (practice 1-11)
- Articulation and dynamics (practice 12-23)

Week 11

- Refining playing and teaching techniques (practice 1-23)
- Listening exam and review (practice 25, 26, 32)

Week 12

- Euphonium written and playing test, turn in instruments and notes (read ch. 7 and p. 175-178)
- Pass out instruments (tuba) and first notes (practice 1-11)

Week 13

- Pass out instruments (euphonium) and first notes (practice 1-11)
- Articulation and dynamics (practice 12-23)

Week 14

- Refining playing and teaching techniques (practice 1-23)
- Listening exam and review (practice 25, 26, 32)

Week 15

- Euphonium written and playing test, turn in instruments and notes

Week 16

- Prepare for final exam