COURSE SYLLABUS
BRASS METHODS • MUSI 1185
Fall 2021
MW 8:00 - 8:50 a.m.

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Office Hours: posted on office door
or by appt.

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Course Description

Nomenclature of brass instruments, teaching methods, and fundamentals of performance. This course is a study of instruments of the brass family. Students will have the opportunity to gain extended practical experience on the brass instruments in addition to gaining specific technical and pedagogical information. This course is designed for B.M. with Certification majors and will focus on the development of teaching skills for use as an instrumental music educator. Teaching will be accomplished with two instructors in 8-week sessions. Students will be divided into two halves. One-half will begin with one instructor and switch to the other instructor for the remaining 8 weeks. The other half will start with the other instructor and switch after the first 8 weeks. Grades from each half will be averaged to produce the student’s final grade for the course.

Course Objectives

1. Gain a working knowledge of the acoustical properties of the brass family instruments.
2. Be provided with information regarding techniques required of brass instruments.
3. Demonstrate acceptable teaching methods for the brass instruments.
4. Perform on brass instruments at a basic level of technique and musical ability.
5. Understand transpositions, clefs, mutes, and accessories appropriate for the instrument.
6. Learn how to care for and maintain brass instruments.

Text
Students will also receive handouts and other materials throughout the term. Students will be responsible for being familiar with all materials by the assigned date.

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**Evaluation and Grading**

Students in MUSI 1185 will be evaluated using the following criteria; percentage of total grade is in parenthesis:

1. Notebook containing at least, but not limited to, class lecture notes and supplemental materials/handouts. Students will hand in notebook during the last week of session (20% — 200)
2. Graded playing/performance tests on four brass instruments (5% each — 200))
3. Two teaching episodes of a non-brass player on a brass instrument (10% each — 200)
4. Midterm examination on general brass instructional and performance techniques and assigned readings (10% — 100)
5. Final examination on brass technique, literature and pedagogical materials, all applicable reading materials (10% — 100)
6. One brass ensemble concert review (10% — 100)
7. Attendance and participation (10% — 100)

Grade Distribution:

- 900-1,000 = A
- 800-899 = B
- 700-799 = C
- 600-699 = D
- 0-599 = F

**Attendance and Participation**

MUSI 1185 is a preparatory class for a career in Music Education and students should behave in a professional manner. This includes, but is not limited to:
- punctuality and preparedness for each class session
- timely preparation of all assigned materials
- logically organized, complete notebook
- support of all colleagues during class participation and peer-teaching assignments

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and have instruments ready and warmed up prior to the beginning of class. Absences must be excused or will be counted unexcused; each unexcused absence will lower your final grade by five percent (5%).

**Syllabus Addenda**

Other important items for inclusion in the syllabus can be found in an addendum located on our Blackboard site ("CV and Syllabus" tab). These include:

- COVID 19 Information
- Student Disability Services
- Title IX
- Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Student Conduct Policies
- General Policies Related to This Course

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## BRASS METHODS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Normal Font = In-class  
*Italicized* = Homework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (8/23)</td>
<td>Introduction to syllabus and text/online component</td>
<td>Brass basics, instrument checkout, first buzzing</td>
<td>Introduction to syllabus and text/online component</td>
<td>Brass basics, instrument checkout, first buzzing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | • READ: 1A – 1D  
  • HW SHEET: Brass Instrument Basics | • READ: 1E – 2D  
  • HW SHEET: Breathing and Embouchure | • READ: 1A – 1D  
  • HW SHEET: Brass Instrument Basics | |
| 2 (8/30) | Assembling instruments, first notes | Harmonic series, group playing | Assembling instruments, first notes | Harmonic series, group playing |
| | • READ: 3 – 4 & 12A – 12B  
  • HW SHEET: Harmonic Series | • READ: 5A – 5B  
  • HW SHEET: Intonation | • READ: 3 – 4 & 12A – 12B  
  • HW SHEET: Harmonic Series | • READ: 5A – 5B  
  • HW SHEET: Intonation |
| 3 (9/6) | Labor Day (no class) | Low brass maintenance, group playing | Labor Day (no class) | Trumpet discussion, embouchure |
| |  | • READ: 8A – 8E  
  • HW SHEET: Trombone #1 |  | • READ: 6A – 6C |
| 4 (9/13) | Trombone discussion, group playing | Trombone discussion, group playing | Trumpet discussion, articulation  
  Group playing | Trumpet discussion, Group playing |
| | • READ: 8F – 8J  
  • HW SHEET: Trombone #2 | • Playing test video #1 due end of week  
  • Study for trombone positions quiz | • PLAYING test video #1 due end of week | • PLAYING test video #1 due end of week |
| 5 (9/20) | Trombone positions quiz, swap instruments | Euphonium discussion, group playing | Trumpet fingerings quiz, swap instruments | Horn discussion, holding, right hand/stopping |
| | • READ: 9A – 9E  
  • HW SHEET: Euphonium #1 | • READ: 9F – 9I  
  • HW SHEET: Euphonium #2 | • READ: 7A – 7C | • READ: 7D – 7F |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 (9/27)</td>
<td>Euphonium discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Tuba discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Horn discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Tuba discussion, group playing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• READ: 10A – 10E</td>
<td>• READ: 10F–10I</td>
<td>• READ: 7G – 7I</td>
<td>• READ: 7J – 7L</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• HW SHEET: Tuba #1</td>
<td>• HW SHEET: Tuba #2</td>
<td>• Find a model to use for teaching demo</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 (10/4)</td>
<td>Tuba discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Tuba/Euphonium fingerings quiz, group playing</td>
<td>Horn discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Horn fingerings quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Study for test</td>
<td>• Playing test video #2 due end of week</td>
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<td>• Playing test video #2 due end of week</td>
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<td>• Teaching demo videos due end of week</td>
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<td>8 (10/11)</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review, turn in instruments</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review, turn in instruments</td>
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<td>• Midterm (brass basics/nomenclature test) due end of week</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>Task 1</td>
<td>Task 2</td>
<td>Task 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(11/1)</td>
<td>Trombone positions quiz, group playing</td>
<td>Euphonium discussion, group playing, swap instruments</td>
<td>Trumpet discussion, group playing</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• READ: 9A – 9E HW SHEET: Euphonium #1</td>
<td>• READ: 9F – 9I HW SHEET: Euphonium #2</td>
<td>• READ: 7A – 7C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(11/8)</td>
<td>Euphonium discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Tuba discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Horn discussion, holding, right hand/stopping</td>
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<td>• READ: 10A – 10E HW SHEET: Tuba #1 Find a model to use for teaching demo</td>
<td>• READ: 10F–10I HW SHEET: Tuba #2 Find a model to use for teaching demo</td>
<td>• READ: 7D – 7F Find a model to use for teaching demo</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(11/15)</td>
<td>Tuba discussion, group playing</td>
<td>Tuba/Euphonium fingerings quiz, group playing</td>
<td>Horn discussion, group playing</td>
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<td>• Study for test Teaching demo videos due end of week</td>
<td>• Playing test video #2 due end of week Teaching demo videos due end of week</td>
<td>• Study for test Teaching demo videos due end of week</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(11/22)</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break (no class)</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review Thanksgiving Break (no class)</td>
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<td>• READ: 12D – 12E</td>
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<td>• READ: 12D – 12E</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(11/29)</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review, turn in instruments</td>
<td>General brass care &amp; cleaning, director’s survival guide discussion, turn in instruments</td>
<td>Teaching demo videos review, turn in instruments</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• READ: 13A – 13J</td>
<td>Brass Ensemble Concert Review due</td>
<td>Brass Ensemble Concert Review due</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>(12/6)</td>
<td>Final Exam: Monday (12/6), 8–10 AM</td>
<td>Final Exam: Monday (12/6), 8–10 AM</td>
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<td>Brass methods final &amp; turn in notebooks</td>
<td>Brass methods final &amp; turn in notebooks</td>
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