

**Sam Houston State University School of Music**  
**Study of Brasses**

**Course Syllabus**  
**Spring Semester 2008**

**MUS 216x01**

**CID#2878**

**Instructor: Randal Adams**

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**Class: FAB 205**

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**Office Hours: By Appointment**

**Class Times: MWF 10:00-10:50**

**Course Description:**

The Study of Brasses is designed to be an introduction into the field of brass pedagogy. During the semester the student will gain familiarity with the fundamentals of tone production, respiration as applied to brass performance, embouchure function (and diagnosis of dysfunction), hand position and posture, and various methods of study. The Study of Brasses will also provide a knowledge base for basic brass repertoire including method books, solo and etude materials and texts. Classes will be conducted in a master class setting involving group and solo playing, the refinement of aural skills related to brass pedagogy and performance, the development of positive and constructive critique methods, and active participation in the teaching/learning process. The main emphasis of the course will be on teaching, and the secondary emphasis will be on individual performance.

**Course Objectives:**

Gaining a basic knowledge of brass instrument tone production, embouchure, respiration, methodology, technique and repertoire in order to effectively teach at the beginner through high school levels.

Developing pedagogical and personal skills and methods for working with individuals on an intense level while maintaining a positive and productive atmosphere.

Applying fundamentals of brass playing and pedagogy to various scenarios students may face (diagnosing and solving problems) on an individualized basis suiting the needs and abilities of specific students.

## **Materials and Equipment:**

**Recommended Text:** *Teaching Brass: a Resource Manual*, Bailey, Miles, Siebert, Stanley and Stein, Copyright © 1992 by McGraw-Hill, Inc. (*This book is optional, and you will not necessarily need it in order to make an A in the class without it; however, it is an excellent resource for future reference*).

**Class Notebook:** You will need a notebook and/or folder with pockets for keeping handouts and taking class notes. It is recommended that you use a three-ring binder divided into sections labeled “General, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba” with pockets for class handouts and other loose materials.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

It is *essential* that you keep *good notes* for this class since there is no requirement to buy a textbook! If you miss a class, be sure to get the notes from someone who was present that day.

**Instruments:** Students will be issued a school-owned instrument for use in this class. Students are required to fill out and sign an Equipment Issue form and pay a \$10 locker fee to be made through the School of Music Office. When not in use, these instruments are to be kept *in their assigned lockers*. The student is financially responsible for the instrument.

**Personal Hygiene Equipment:** It is recommended that each student purchase a bottle of spray disinfectant such as *Sanimist*™ or an anti-bacterial mouthwash to bring to class along with a mouthpiece brush, some sort of rag to keep hands and clothing clean and a small bottle of water-free hand sanitizer (brass instruments can be pretty *nasty* sometimes). Students may also wish to purchase their own personal mouthpieces, although mouthpieces will be supplied with the instruments. *Keep in mind that two different classes may be sharing the same instruments and mouthpieces during the semester.*

## **Attendance:**

You are required to attend all classes. Much of the information you will be responsible for will not be found in your text book but will be gleaned from class experience, “hands-on” class participation and lecture. If you must miss a class you are to notify the instructor prior to the absence. You are allowed three excused absences during the semester without penalty (*this is very generous!*); after that, three points will be deducted from your final grade for each additional absence. Absences for University business (off-campus performances, etc.) will always be excused, but they will require written notification from the appropriate university official (e.g. the ensemble director). Makeup exams may be given only at the discretion of the instructor (making arrangements *prior* to the exam is the best way to secure permission for a makeup).

### **Assignments:**

**Daily Grade:** Regular daily work will include reading assignments from various sources, most of which will be given to you as class handouts, class participation (e.g. playing your horn), group and solo performances in class on the individual instruments, teaching and coaching exercises to be performed and reviewed in (and by) the class, and possibly an occasional quiz.

### **Exams:**

Two major playing exams, one for each instrument you play, and two written exams will be given in addition to the quizzes and other daily work during the semester. The playing exams may be done in groups of two like instruments and will include scales, technical exercises learned in class, and a song or etude. The exams, both written and playing, are designed to allow students to demonstrate fundamental skills and overall knowledge and understanding of the instrument studied in order to teach effectively.

The final exam will be cumulative and will include:

- Playing Demonstration**
- Teaching Demonstration**
- Written Test**

### **Grading:**

The final grade for the semester is determined by the following averages:

- 50% - Daily Grade (Includes class attendance and participation)
- 25% - Major Exams (exams given for instruments studied individually)
- 25% - Cumulative Final Exam (written, playing, teaching)

Grading Scale:

- A 100 – 90
- B 89 – 80
- C 79 – 70
- D 69 – 60
- F 59 – 0

*It is my sincere wish and desire to see each of you succeed as musicians, educators and happy and fulfilled human beings. Each of you has been given a rare and beautiful gift, and together it is our joint responsibility to develop this gift to its fullest potential. None of us can succeed in this endeavor alone. It takes immense amounts of pondering, patience and practice. Always listen and observe. Learn wherever and whenever you can. “Store up knowledge,” and whether you teach or perform or do both, the rewards of your hard work, diligence and integrity will be immeasurable, for your career in Music Education or Music Therapy touches many lives in ways you may never know.*

## **AND NOW, A WORD FROM THE SHSU FACULTY HANDBOOK**

### **Academic honesty:**

*The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.*

### **Proper Classroom Demeanor/Rules of Conduct:**

According to university policy and §5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

"Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy."

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

According to University policy requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center

### **Religious Holidays:**

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day is required to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day after the first day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day (Faculty Handbook, §§1.02-2.01).