

Sam Houston State University
School of Music
Course Syllabus
TRB101X02 CID#3167
Applied Trombone
2 Credit Hours
Spring 2008

Studio: MUS 215

Instructor: Allen Barnhill

Time: TBA

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description: Applied Trombone is a private study course in which the student receives one-on-one instruction using specific assignments designed to further the student's performing skill and overall musicianship. The course will be tailored to each individual student's goals and abilities. There are, however, certain definite standards and fundamental skills which all trombone students will be expected to obtain. Assignments will include technical studies, etudes, solos, and orchestral repertoire. Private lessons along with the Trombone Studio Class will provide an environment conducive to growth and development, including opportunities to participate in chamber music, large trombone ensemble and orchestral repertoire. Each student will be required to perform in public as a soloist (recital, forum, audition, jury, etc.) at least once per semester. There are no required prerequisite courses for 100-level lessons; however, a general knowledge of music and at least some remedial skill on the trombone is assumed. Enrollment in 300-level lessons will require four semesters of 100-level lessons and completion of the Proficiency Exam.

Course Objectives: The main goal is to become a competent musician. In order to achieve this, the student must have a strong commitment toward these specific goals:

- 1.) Master the art of playing and performing on the trombone
- 2.) Attain excellence in technique, tone quality, intonation, rhythm and musical styles
- 3.) Develop sight reading skill in all clefs: bass, tenor, alto and treble
- 4.) Gain knowledge of standard trombone and brass literature:
 - Pedagogical Literature (etudes and exercises)
 - Solo Literature
 - Chamber music
 - Orchestral, Wind Band Excerpts
- 5.) Acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team
- 6.) Develop creative capacities
- 7.) Demonstrate a high commitment to attendance and punctuality, an essential element in the fields of music performance and teaching

Assigned Materials: If you are assigned a new book or solo, you will have two weeks to acquire it. Four excellent sources:

1. Sheet Music of Portland, 1-800-452-1133, www.sheetmusic-service.com
2. Robert King Music Sales, www.rkingmusic.com
140 Main Street
North Easton, MA 02356
Fax: 508-238-2571
3. Hickey's Music 1-800-442-5397, www.hickeys.com
4. Pender's Music 1-800-952-7526, www.penders.com

Required Equipment: Minimum requirements in this area are:

1. Trombone and mouthpiece in good working condition
2. Proper lubrication materials

Attendance: Your weekly trombone lesson is an important performance, not to be missed! You all know I am commuting from Houston and performing full time with the Houston Symphony. There is absolutely no "wobble room" in my schedule to reshuffle or reschedule lessons at the last minute. You must contact me at least 24 hours ahead of time if you have to miss your lesson to avoid a grade of F for that lesson. Generally I will not make up missed lessons. It is imperative that you CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY for updates concerning your lesson, Studio Class, recitals, and other pertinent information.

Trombone Ensemble/Studio Class: These will be scheduled every week. We will focus on fundamentals, listening, individual performance, chamber music and large trombone ensemble. These sessions will reinforce and enhance the experience in private lessons and you should make every effort to attend.

Preparation: Your weekly grade will be determined by the preparation of each weekly lesson. If you are an average student you should plan to practice at least ONE HOUR EVERY DAY. This is the minimum. In reality one should practice until the material is mastered.

Wind-Percussion Recitals/Forums (Student Recitals): You are required to attend all Wind-Percussion Forums. As musicians we grow not only through practicing and performing but also as listeners. Additionally you will be supporting your colleagues and you will be exposed to an ever-widening range of literature. I will strongly encourage you to perform on a Wind-Percussion Forum at least once per academic year. Coat and tie for men or its equivalent for women are the appropriate dress for the Forum performances.

Juries: These are your final exams for which you will receive a grade. At the end of each semester, you will fill out a form and list the materials you have worked on throughout the entire semester. There are scale proficiencies up through the sophomore level; thereafter, you must be able to continue to display adequate knowledge. Sight-reading at an appropriate level is also required. Failure to take a jury will be an automatic F.

Sophomore Barrier: This is an important goal for everyone. Aside from playing the scale syllabus from memory, you must perform an appropriate level solo with piano. After passing the barrier you must continue to perform at the upper level. Sight-reading will be at both 100 and 300 levels and will include reading tenor clef.

Ensembles: I expect each of you to be well prepared for rehearsals. In professional playing, one does not come to any rehearsal without knowing the part. Small ensembles may be required as a part of studio lessons.

Recital Attendance: Much of the learning you receive will come from listening to music. Therefore you must follow the departmental requirement for attendance at Studio Recitals and Concerts. In particular, I expect you to attend all Trombone, Faculty Brass Quintet, and Faculty Brass Professor's Recitals. You are also highly encouraged to attend the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble's concerts.

Grades: Each lesson will receive a grade based on the preparation of each assignment. This will comprise 75% of your final grade. You will also receive a grade for your Jury and possibly for any other performances. Your progress in longer-range concepts such as tone quality, pitch, rhythm, musical style, etc., will be considered in determining your final grade.

Grading System: Your lesson is an important weekly performance and you should approach it as if you were giving a recital on the stage of some famous concert hall. The assigned material must be prepared ahead of time. My role as instructor is to guide you in developing your musicianship and performance skill, not to spoon-feed you the notes. You will make much better progress if you practice enough to absorb the music and play it well **before** your lesson begins. The guidelines for grading have been set as follows:

- A Excellent (lesson well prepared)
- B Well above average (lesson reasonably prepared)
- C Average (lesson somewhat prepared)
- D Below Average (lesson not well prepared)
- F Below Average (lesson not well prepared without an acceptable reason, or absent from lesson without prior notice)

Regarding Academic Honesty: All students are expected 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. 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. In this class academic honesty should be considered as you report your practice times.

Regarding Proper Classroom Demeanor and Rules of Conduct: 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, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Americans with Disabilities Act: SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and /or examinations are to be completed.