

Music 213/216
Brass Techniques
Dr. Peggy DeMers
E-mail mus_pad@shsu.edu
Office: FA 314
Phone: 294-1363

Office Hours: see list on Blackboard, or by appointment

Text: Teaching Brass a resource manual, Bailey, Miles, Siebert, Stanley, and Stein.

Goals and Objectives: The goal of this class is for students to acquire the tools to teach brass at various levels as is generally expected of competent public school instrumental music educators. Students will develop basic performing skills on at least two of the following brass instruments: trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium or baritone, and tuba. The student will be able to demonstrate basic embouchures, breathing skills, articulations, proper hand and body positions, with facility. The course will also include historical background of the instruments, acoustics and tuning, overtone series, basic and alternate fingerings for each instrument, transposition, brass methods, brass literature solo and chamber music, basic source materials, care and repair of instruments, the elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, timber and form), and educational concepts of what to teach, when and how.

Grades: Your grade will be awarded on point system. There will be two performance skills and tests and several other activities to attain points towards a grade. In addition all students will be assessed on individual daily preparation/participation (15%), assignments and attendance.

Exam #1: March 3 and 5 **Exam #2:** May 5 and 7

Attendance: Three absences may be taken without penalty. Any beyond that will be penalized as a four-point penalty against the final grade average for each additional absence. University business requires an excuse from the appropriate university official before the event. All other absences will have to be approved as excused through the office of Student Life.

Class Procedures: Each class will consist of lecture as well as performance.

1. The student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of:
 - a. Intonation tendencies and solutions to problems.
 - b. Teaching techniques appropriate to various levels of proficiency.
 - c. Identify potentially successful students for each brass instrument.
 - d. Identify performance problems and possible solutions.

2. The student will have an understanding of junior high school level performance skill in:
 - a. Producing a characteristic tone
 - b. Appropriate use of standard fingering, and knowledge of alternate fingerings
 - c. Proper execution of various styles of articulation
 - d. Major scales through 3 sharps and flats
 - e. Chromatic scale
 - f. Tuning the instrument
 - g. Performance of material assigned in class

(In order to be properly prepared for class the student will read the assigned material and practice at least 25 minutes per day on the assigned instrument.)

Course Requirements

1. Complete daily reading and playing assignments
2. Complete written assignments, examinations and notebook
3. Attend class and Participate in discussions
4. Complete assigned observations and recitals
5. Complete the 2 instrumental skills tests

****Students are financially responsible for the rental instruments. When not in use, the instruments are to be kept Only in their assigned lockers.**

- A. Student Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:
<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>
- B. Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.
- C. Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
- D. Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.
- E. Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.
- F. Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrars Office.
- G. Additional Information All information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.