

Sam Houston State University
School of Music
Oboe Studio
Course Syllabus, Spring 2008
CID 3103 Obo 101 X 02, CID 3104 Obo 301 X 02, CID 3105 Obo 301 X 04

Instructor: Spring Hill
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Course Description: Applied Oboe is a private study course in which the student receives one-on-one coaching and a series of specific assignments designed to further the student's development as a oboist, teacher and overall musician. This course of study will be tailored to each individual student's needs, abilities and aspirations. There are, however, certain definite standards and fundamental skills in which all oboe students will be expected to obtain. Assignments will include technical studies, etudes, solos, and orchestral repertoire. Private lessons will be used to develop performance skills, and 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 flute is assumed. Enrollment in 300-level lessons will require four semesters of 100-level lessons and completion of the Proficiency Exam

Course Objectives: Our main goal is to become competent musicians. In order to achieve this we must work toward some specific goals:

- 1.) Master the instrument
- 2.) Gain familiarity with a variety of musical styles through the study of solo literature, etudes, and orchestral excerpts
- 3.) Develop sight reading skills
- 4.) Develop audition and performance skills
- 5.) Master standard oboe literature:
 - A.) Pedagogical Literature (etudes and exercises)
 - B.) Solo Literature
 - C.) **Orchestral Excerpts**
- 6.) Develop reed making skills

Assigned Materials: If you are assigned a new book or solo, you will have two weeks to acquire it. You can call Southern Music toll free (1-800-284-5443) or H & H Music in Houston (1-800-HH-MUSIC) to order music.

Equipment: You should have at least two working reeds at all times. It is your responsibility to secure reeds at the appropriate time, allowing for a period of waiting for

their arrival. Lack of preparation on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

Attendance: You must take a minimum of **twelve** lessons in the semester to avoid a one-grade penalty. If you are unable to have a lesson, you should make every attempt to contact me about a problem before your lesson time. 24 hours advance notice is required in order for the lesson to be made up by the instructor and thus avoid an F for the missed lesson. (If I am unavailable for your lesson, I will try to give you advance notice.)

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 **1 1/2 HOURS EVERY DAY**. In reality one should practice until the material is mastered. Part of the lesson preparation includes making reeds each week for the lesson. Once the basics are learned you will be required to bring in **2** reeds that you have made that are working. You will be graded weekly on your reedmaking progress. ***Once the Sophomore proficiency has been passed, the requirement goes up to 3-4 playable reeds a week.***

Forums: Unless there are special circumstances, you must play on a Student Recital which is called a “forum.” Students are required to attend a certain number of these forums, in addition to their own performance. Faculty Members of the Wind Division will also attend these performances and write comments. Students are responsible for securing (and paying) their own accompanists.

Juries: These are your final exams, for which you will receive a grade, etc. You will sign up for a time (during final week) to play your jury for the wind faculty.

Sophomore Proficiency: To receive upper division credit for applied music, you must pass a proficiency exam at the end of the sophomore year. Aside from playing the scale and arpeggio patterns from memory, you must perform a work with piano and also sight-read. You should also be able to talk intelligently about your instrument, your solo, the composer of your solo, or other such topics. Reeds used for the proficiency will need to be made by the student to assess reedmaking skills. The wind faculty will confer to decide if you have passed this exam. After passing the proficiency exam, you must continue to perform at the upper level.

Ensembles: It is required that you prepare the music BEFORE rehearsals. Please do not waste the director’s or your classmate’s rehearsal time by being unprepared. If you have problems with the music AFTER working on it, bring it to your next lesson. It is also required that you attend all sectional rehearsals. Sectional rehearsals are for your benefit. If everyone knows his/her music, fewer sectionals will need to be called.

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. There is also a requirement within the wind division to attend the wind forums. In particular, you will be required by me to attend all Oboe Recitals.

Grades: You will receive weekly grades based on the preparation of each assignment. A weekly Journal grade will also be given. Your progress in longer-range concepts such as quality of tone, musical style, etc., will be considered in determining your final grade. An unexcused absence from a Studio Recital or Jury will place your semester grade in serious jeopardy.

Grading System: *It is expected that all students will come to the lesson prepared – that means knowing and playing the right notes, rhythms, dynamics, articulations, intonation, etc. as best as you can BEFORE you get to the lesson. If you consider each lesson as a performance, you will progress much faster than those to whom these basic materials must be taught each week. It is the professor's role to provide information about tone and technique to help you refine your playing and to help you create music from the basic materials which should be in your system already. 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: 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. 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.

Regarding Students with Disabilities: Any student who may have any unobservable disability, such as a learning disability, should report for assistance to the Counseling Center, located in the Lee Drain North Annex. Appropriate documentation of any claimed disability is the student's responsibility. According to a letter to faculty from the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Student Services, "Medical or psychological records are required to be provided by the student for verification of an unobservable disability, such as a learning disability." If you have questions regarding this issue, contact the Counseling Center.

Regarding Religious Holidays: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day be permitted 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.