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Trombone Applied Lesson Syllabus Fall 2009

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides protection from the illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students requesting instructional accommodations due to disabilities must arrange for such accommodation through the Office of Disability Services. The ODS is located at 103 Student Health Center. The phone is: 273-2676 (voice) 273-3011 (TTY); Email: disabilityservices@uni.edu

Objectives

1. To improve as an artist on the trombone
2. To learn about styles and phrasing, particularly those in common usage today
3. To learn the process of becoming a completely masterful performer
4. To use the trombone as a medium for learning how to teach music to others

If you are a performance major, the goal is simple: to prepare you for the world of professional performance. If you are a music education major, the goal is to give you firsthand experience with artistry and mastering an instrument, so that you can teach this process to others. In either case, a great deal of practice, dedication, and organization is necessary to achieve these goals.

Required Materials

Each student is required to have the following items immediately after the first lesson of the semester:

- Tom Crown Aluminum Straight Mute
- Humes and Berg Cup Mute
- Electronic Tuner
- Metronome
- Embouchure visualizer
- Inspirix
- Manuscript paper notebook for assignments
- J. Brahms/E. Carlson: *Sixteen Lieder for Trombone*, published by CEC Music
- Assigned music for the semester

Failure to obtain these materials will result in grade reduction.

Copied music is not allowed for jury, seminar, or recital performances, unless the piece is no longer in print.

The following items are highly recommended, but not required:

- 5 or 6 liter breathing bag
- Voldyne
- “Breath Builder”
- Digital recorder or other recording device (24 bit/96 kHz capability recommended)

Performance Requirements

All graduate students and undergraduate performance, music education, and B.A. students are required to perform a solo work on a Trombone, Brass, or Wind/Percussion Seminar once a semester.

All students are required to complete a performance jury each semester, unless waived by the instructor.

Scale Juries will be given during the week of November 17th. Scales must be played two octaves. For required forms, see *Scale Jury Forms* handout.

Practice

Students are expected to have all notes and rhythms perfectly prepared so that musical details can be addressed at the lesson. For B.A. and Music Ed majors, this will require a minimum of two hours of practice each day. Those wishing to excel will find it necessary to practice more than the minimum two hours a day. Performance majors should be practicing three hours a day or more. Non majors are expected to practice one hour a day.

Playing does not equal practicing. Practicing must be goal-oriented; your job is to get a little bit better every day. Great artistry is possible only when the technical challenges have been mastered. If you have any questions about how to practice, please see me ASAP!

Lesson Expectations

You must bring your instrument, all assigned music, a pencil, your manuscript notebook, mutes for assigned music, and a water spray bottle to each lesson.

Be on time for your lesson and knock on the instructor's door when it is time for your lesson. You are expected to be completely warmed up with your slide properly lubricated for each lesson. Arriving without having warmed up will result in the lesson being terminated.

It is your responsibility to keep track of comments and assignments.

Studio Loans

Music or materials can be borrowed from the instructor for one week only. Each student will be required to sign out loaned material. Anyone not returning material by the end of the semester will receive an "I" or have their final grade lowered. Students who return materials in a damaged condition or who lose materials will be expected to buy a new copy for the instructor. Anyone copying sheet music for use in a lesson will be expected to purchase an original copy within one week.

Performance Preparation/Collaborator

Please ask the following piano collaborators first to accompany your performances: Dr. Robin Guy, Sean Botkin, Dr. Dmitri Vorobiev, or Serena Hu. Others can be used if none of the above is available; please ask the instructor for recommendations before consulting them.

Collaborators for juries must be selected at least six weeks before juries. Music must be given to collaborators at that time. Rehearsals for the jury must begin at least three weeks before the jury. Students will not be allowed to perform unless the instructor has heard at least one rehearsal.

Collaborators for recitals must be selected at least 12 weeks prior to the recital, and music given to them 8 weeks prior to the recital date. Rehearsals for recitals must begin at least 6 weeks before the recital.

Final Grade

Each semester grade is determined out of a possible 1000 points, divided as follows:

Weekly Grade Average: 60%
 Performance Jury: 20%
 Scale Jury: 10%
 Other Studio Requirements: 10%

Weekly Lessons

The majority (60%) of the final grade is based upon an average of the weekly lesson grades. Lessons are assessed on quality of preparation on all material assigned.

If your lesson preparation is inadequate, I reserve the right to end the lesson at any point. You will earn zero points for that lesson.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend every weekly lesson. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence per semester. When you are taking your unexcused absence, please let me know at least 24 hours in advance. This allows me time to schedule other students or meetings.

Absences are excused for personal illness, university related functions, and family emergencies. **In order for an absence to be excused, it must be for one of the above reasons and you must give proof of your excuse in writing.** If you know of the absence in advance, please be courteous and let me know. I will try to make up excused absences as my schedule allows.

If I have to cancel a lesson for any reason, you will have the option of making the lesson up. If you choose not to make up the lesson or we can't schedule it, you will still get full points for that lesson.

Lessons missed due to lack of practice will not be made up.

Each subsequent unexcused lesson beyond the one allowed will result in a one hundred point deduction from your final semester point total, or one full letter grade.

Scale Jury

Scale juries will be given during your weekly lesson week of November 17th. Your scale skill level will be assessed in the first lesson and scales will be assigned accordingly. Please see the Scale Jury Forms handout for the form expected on the test. Scales must be played from memory, two octaves. Six to eight different keys and scale forms will be drawn at random. Scale juries are worth 10% of your grade, or 100 points.

You must score a minimum of 60%, or 60 points, to pass your scale jury. **Failure to pass the scale jury will result in a grade of incomplete for the semester.** The scale jury will be given to you again at the beginning of the next semester. The “incomplete” will be removed upon successful completion of the scale jury.

Solo Jury

Juries are a ten minute long performance of a solo work, generally with piano accompaniment, for the brass faculty. The jury performance is worth 200 points, or 20% of your grade. Juries are graded by the jury committee and the overall committee grade will be converted to a 200 point scale.

If you are a senior performing a recital, your recital **may** take the place of a jury (see me about this) and will be incorporated into that part of your grade. Non-music majors are required to play only one jury per academic year, during either fall or spring semester.

100 Level Juries

When a student is wishing to be approved for 100-level credit, the Jury must be memorized. 100 level juries consist of at least ten minutes of solo trombone music (usually with piano), plus major, all three forms of minor, whole tone, dorian, mixolydian, blues, and chromatic scales + arpeggios, two octaves.

Trombone Seminar will meet from 12-1 PM on Fridays in RSL 116. If you have a class conflict, you will be excused from attendance; otherwise, music majors are required to attend. Seminar will encompass masterclasses, trombone choir reading, and coached performances by soloists and ensembles.

Brass (or Combined Winds/Percussion) Seminar meets from 1-2 PM every Friday. Attendance for music majors is mandatory.

Recitals

There are two trombone recitals this semester. Attendance is mandatory for trombone majors:

October 23—Andrew Thoreen, senior recital

6 PM, Davis Hall

October 28—Dr. Buckholz, faculty recital

8 PM, Davis Hall

Role will be taken at each class. Students missing a seminar or recital for any reason other than a university-sponsored function must complete a CD review within one week or their grade will be lowered. Failure to do so will result in a 50 point deduction from your final point total.

Only two absences during the semester are allowed to be made up with a CD review. Each unexcused absence after two during the semester will result in a full letter (100 point) grade deduction in Applied Trombone.

CD Review: A one-page, typed synopsis of a selected CD. The synopsis must include 1) title of the CD, 2) artist(s), 3) recording company, 4) identifying #, 5) compositions, 6) an overview (including critical commentary, and 7) your reaction. Focus critical comments on musicianship, sound quality, and other pertinent information. Utilize the Rod Library's selection of CDs or Naxos Online.

Concert Attendance: *"School of Music* undergraduate music majors (full time) are required to attend eight approved performances each semester. *School of Music* sponsored recitals/concerts, programs involving the WCFSO, and music programs on the UNI Artists and Chamber Series qualify for concert attendance credit." Obtain a card from the *School of Music* office and turn it in (to Dr. Buckholz) on or before your semester jury. A grade of Incomplete will be given (for Applied Trombone) to those individuals who fail to turn in a completed card. **Do not** turn in a forged card!

Other

Membership in the International Trombone Association is highly encouraged. The *ITA Journal* is a valuable resource for all trombonists, and a subscription for students is very inexpensive.

A five page paper can be submitted as extra credit. See the instructor about format, topics, and point value.

The instructor reserves the right to change or revise any part of this syllabus during the semester.

Grading

Grades for the course will be based upon the results of the following evaluated components which comprise 1000 possible points:

Assignments	Points
Weekly Lessons	600
Scale Jury	100
Solo Jury	200
Other assignments	100
Total for the semester	1000

Grades will be assigned on strict percentages; there will be no curve.

A (92-100%)	920-1000 points
A- (90-91.9%)	900-919 points
B+ (88-89.9%)	880-899 points
B (82-87.9%)	820-879 points
B- (80-81.9%)	800-819 points
C+ (78-79.9%)	780-799 points
C (72-77.9%)	720-779 points
C- (70-71.9%)	700-719 points
D+ (68-69.9%)	680-699 points
D (62-67.9%)	620-679 points
D- (60-61.9%)	600-619 points
F (59.9% and below)	0-599 points

Semester point totals may be adjusted as follows:

Weekly Lesson Attendance: 100 points deducted for each unexcused absence after one or for three tardies. Tardy = more than 5 minutes late.

Studio Class, Trombone Recital, and Brass Seminar Attendance: 50 points deducted for each unexcused absence. Up to two Studio Class and/or Brass Seminar absences can be made up with a CD review; see above. Trombone Recitals cannot be made up with a CD review.