

Cornell College Music Department
Brass Techniques MUS 703
Spring 2013

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Course Description:

Brass Techniques is a course designed for the future music educator who will be teaching band to middle and high school students. The course will provide a fundamental understanding of how to teach a new student in beginning band and essential brass techniques that will be viable in addressing problems that may occur.

The course will be broken up into group meetings and individual lessons. Each student will learn a total of 3 instruments. The horn and trombone are required and one other brass instrument will be selected by the instructor. Unless the student already plays one of those mentioned, the instructor will guide the student to a different selection.

Objective and goals of the course:

The Student will:

1. Understand how to start a new student on a brass instrument.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the harmonic series of each assigned instrument.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the function of the embouchure while playing and teaching a brass instrument.
4. Demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the equipment (mouthpiece, mutes, transposition, valves, slides, care and maintenance).
5. Understand the
 - a. Trumpet
 - b. Horn
 - c. Trombone
 - d. Euphonium/baritone
 - e. Tuba

Required Text and Materials:

1. Pearson, Bruce. *Standard of Excellence; Comprehensive Band Method*. Book 1
2. Lautzenheiser, Tim. *Essential Elements 2000*. Book 1
3. Feldstein, Sandy. *Yamaha Band Student*. Book 1
4. 3 ring binder with notebook paper for class notes and staff paper

Supplemental Texts:

Whitener, Scott. *A Complete Guide to Brass*. New York: Schirmer Books, London: Prentice Hall, 2006.

There will be other texts required to complete the essays. That will be either supplied by the instructor or through the library.

Attendance:

Students are required to be present at all class meeting. A letter grade will be deducted for unexcused absences. It is your responsibility to notify me in advance if you will not be able to attend class, email me or, if it is the day of class, call me.

Grading:

All assignments will be due the day assigned. A letter grade will be deducted from an assignment each day it is late.

Assignments:

1. Playing test: There will be 2-3 playing test on each instrument learned. Please practice so you can get the most out of this course and will be more prepared to teach.
2. Essays: All students will turn in essays on these topics:
 - embouchure
 - breathing
 - overtone series (harmonic series)
 - slide technique
 - articulation
3. Article Reviews
4. Notebook:
 - keep all handouts, articles, class notes, essays, everything in a 3 ring binder (1/2 inch).
5. Final Exam:
 - Teach a private lesson: Select a friend or a random person from another class outside of the music department and teach them how to start on a brass instrument. The instrument is of your choice. You will instruct them on embouchure (beginning the first note), parts of the instrument, assembling the instrument, holding the instrument.