

LOW BRASS ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS

Semester & Year: Fall 2024

Course number – Section – Title: MUEN 1133, 2133, MUEX 3033

Meets (day, time, room): Mondays 6:20-10:00, Flex Studio

Course Credits & Contact Hours: 1 credit and 3 contact hours per week

Instructor:

Phone:

Email:

Office hours:

Catalog Description & Prerequisites

1. Low brass ensemble rehearses and performs works from all genres, written or arranges for low brass ensemble. Live or taped audition for Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba is required.

Course Purposes & Instructional Methodology

1. Students will become acquainted with the highest standards of musical performance on trombone through study of basic techniques, repertoire and performance practices.
2. Students will develop the ability to rehearse with care, consistency, and accuracy through weekly study of brass pedagogy, goal setting, and evaluations.
3. Students will experience the difficulties and rewards of demonstrating what they have accomplished in personal practice by performing literature in weekly rehearsals

To accomplish this, we will cover many related skills, including the following:

1. Critical listening
2. Score studying
3. Ensemble rehearsal etiquette

Required Textbooks & Other Useful Materials

The content of all music performed will be provided by the instructor. Trombones, Tubas, Euphoniums, mouthpieces, electronic tuners, metronomes, recording devices, and other equipment related to practicing or performing will be required on an individual basis. Failure to bring your required repertoire and materials to a rehearsal may result in being counted as an unexcused absence.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the first semester of Low Brass ensemble:

- Students will need to exhibit a basic knowledge of correct reading and rehearsal skills. In addition, students should be able to successfully exhibit a pleasant sound that is appropriate for the classical style. Students will also be expected to play with appropriate intonation and a sense of pulse.
- Students will begin demonstrating the proper slide/valve technique, articulations and will also demonstrate beginning musicianship during rehearsals and performances. Technical drills and exercises may be assigned.
- Assignments will include selections from all levels of the low brass ensemble repertoire.
- All students are required to perform with the ensemble on the mid-semester studio recital.
- Students are required to perform on the end of the semester concert.

Program Learning Outcomes

The Student Learning Outcomes are associated with the following Program Learning Outcomes:

- Develop command of tone, articulations, intonation, and musicianship, through coaching, pedagogy, and instruction.
- Develop performance skill through exercises in preparation and mental approach.
- Develop the habits necessary to succeed as a professional trombonist, euphoniumist, or tubist.
- Prepare participants for the conditions and demands they will face as professional performers.
- Create opportunities to study with national and international artists, educators, and leaders within the music industry.
- Establish and maintain collaborations with professional arts institutions, other academic institutions, and music schools.
- Develop a broad base of donor and patron support for student scholarships, awards, guest artist residencies and special programming.
- Be involved in ACC outreach programs in Austin and surrounding neighborhoods.

General Education Competencies

The General Education Competencies utilized in this course are as follows:

- *Communication Skills.* Students will develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, visual, and musical communication that is adapted to purpose, structure, audience, and medium. They will do this through in-class exercises and performances, and reading and written assignments.
- *Critical Thinking.* Students will gather, analyze, synthesize, evaluate and apply information for the purposes of innovation, inquiry, and creative thinking and performance. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.
- *Personal Responsibility.* Students will identify and apply ethical principles and practices to decision-making by connecting choices, actions and consequences. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.
- *Teamwork.* Students will consider different points of view to work collaboratively and effectively in pursuit of a shared purpose or goal. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.

Grading.

- (1) 14 Weekly rehearsal Grades: Each weekly rehearsal will be graded based on attendance and preparedness of materials. Low brass ensemble grades, the grades for each weekly rehearsal, will be the averages from all graded rehearsals.
- (2) 2 Performance Grades: The studio recital and final concert each count as 25% (50% total) of the final grade.

The scale for grading weekly rehearsals is as follows: A (4) B (3.9 - 3) C (2.9 - 2) D (1.9 - 1) F (0)

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	70-89%
C	60-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Rehearsal Attendance:

With advanced notice, students may cancel 1 rehearsal each semester for any reason without grade penalty. Students who have rehearsal on a holiday do not need to make them up if they attend all of the 14 other rehearsals in the semester. Rehearsals missed for those events described as excused in the Student Handbook are excused, provided that students notify me by the appropriate deadline (1 or 2 weeks depending upon the type of event).

To give an “advanced” notice of your absence, please leave a message via text, send e-mail, or tell me in person. Any absence without prior notice may automatically drop your studio grade one full letter grade (for example B+ to C+). If you are absent for 3 or more rehearsal in any semester you may be involuntarily withdrawn. In cases of prolonged illness or an injury that prevents you from playing or practicing, it may be advisable to drop the class from your schedule.

Please be ready to work when you arrive. Be warmed up and ready to play when rehearsal begins. If you are not warmed up/prepared for a rehearsal, You may counted as unexcused.

Dropping/Withdrawing. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate all withdrawals in this course. The instructor may withdraw students for excessive absences (4) but makes no commitment to do this for the student. You may withdraw, or drop from a 16-week course with a grade of W any time on or before the end of the 12th week in the fall or spring 16-week session. Shorter semesters have prorated drop dates. If you drop a course before its census date, or official reporting date, the course is deleted from your enrollment, does not earn any grade, and does not appear on your transcript. If you drop a course after the census date, a grade will be included on your transcript. Reporting dates vary, so you are strongly encouraged to consult your instructor, the course syllabus, or the Austin Community College website for the drop and withdrawal dates for your course. *If your first college enrollment occurred in the fall of 2001 or later, you may not drop more than 6 courses during your cumulative enrollment at any Texas public college or university.*

For more information on the withdrawal process you can check this page: <https://catalog.austincc.edu/support-services-and-student-progress/student-progress/droppingwithdrawing-from-courses/>

Incomplete Grade. If a student is unable to complete the course at the end of the semester due to an emergency or other unanticipated circumstance, I will consider awarding an incomplete grade for the semester. A new completion date will be given to the student, but it may not be later than the final withdrawal date in the subsequent semester. When the student completes the required work by the deadline, I will submit a form to change the student’s grade from an incomplete to the earned grade. If an incomplete is not resolved by the deadline, the grade will automatically convert to an F.

COURSE POLICIES IN-DEPTH



GRADING POLICY

- Grades will be discussed regularly with the student during the course of the semester.
- The grade of “A” will not be considered for a rehearsal during which errors corrected the previous week are repeated.
- Dismissal from a rehearsal due to lack of preparation, will result in an “unexcused” being earned for that particular rehearsal.
- Please be aware that the grade of “A” is difficult to achieve in the winds and percussion area, and will reflect the grading standards of the college.



REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

- The first year of study students will be expected to prepare repertoire in accordance with their level of development and in conjunction with the performance and study needs of their diction courses. Generally, this will be **6-8 pieces, and 2 small groups. Repertoire is chosen by the instructor.**
- It should be noted that **the completion of only the minimum requirement of repertoire** is not a strong indicator of initiative for your educational or musical growth and success in a four-university.



REHEARSAL PRACTICE

If you are a trombone or music education major, you are to consider your instrument to be the most significant portion of your educational process and are, therefore, to place it as the top priority in your time management plan.

A minimum of one (1) hour of practice time daily, five (5) days a week, is expected. This time may be spent in score study, translation, vocalizations, etc., as set forth by the instructor.

REHEARSAL PREPARATION:

- **Corrections made in one rehearsal and not incorporated by the next rehearsal will be considered as indications of non-preparation and lack of initiative.** This will reflect negatively in the grade earned for the rehearsal or the semester. This applies to all aspects of your rehearsal preparation (rhythms, notes, articulations, etc.)
- Normal preparation will mean that a song assigned one week would be completed and performance ready by the third rehearsal following the assignment.



CELL PHONE POLICY

- Students are not allowed to use cell phones during rehearsal. Students are required to remain in the room for the duration of the class meeting unless there is an emergency.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS IN-DEPTH

WEEKLY PRACTICE LOG



Date:



Duration:

Goals for this session:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Things that went well:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I wasn't happy with...

And I tried to fix it by...

Next time, I will work on...

I want to ask my teacher...
