DOUBLE BASS LEVEL 3 APPLIED LESSONS SYLLABUS

Semester & Year: Fall 2024

Course number – Section – Title: MUAP 2223

Meets (day, time, room): Time and Room Assigned on Individual Basis
Course Credits & Contact Hours: 2 credits and 1 contact hours per week

Instructor:
Phone: **Email:**
Office hours:

Catalog Description & Prerequisites

This weekly one-hour private lesson is designed for students with previous experience on double bass who are pursuing a degree in music. In Level 3, a foundation in proper bass technique is established or reinforced through a system of scales, exercises, and pedagogically appropriate repertoire provided by the instructor. Careful guidance and reinforcement of correct posture and technique occurs during each lesson. Instructor will assign appropriate repertoire which prepares the student toward an end-of-semester adjudicated jury. Emphasis is placed on developing healthy and consistent habits to prepare students for college music study. Attendance and occasional performances are required at the weekly studio class. Students must pass a Level 3 barrier jury to advance to Level 4.

Course Purposes & Instructional Methodology

The goals of applied double bass lessons are to develop bass technique and musicality in performing.
To accomplish this, we will cover many related skills, including the following:

- Understanding and communicating about musical context, including different bow techniques, styles of vibrato, performance contexts, and historical periods
- Listening: historical recordings, aural skills and ear training as it relates to bass playing, and learning/demonstrating by rote
- Disciplined practice strategies and exercises, especially regarding technique
- Healthy habits and organizational techniques, facilitated by a daily practice journal
- Development of a comfortable and appropriate stage presence
- Discussion of career planning and transferring
  Performances in recitals, juries, and/or studio class

Students are expected to attend every weekly lesson. If a reasonable time conflict occurs (illness, audition, etc.) students are required to let the instructor know at least 24 hours ahead of time or preferably sooner.

All students in applied lessons are required to perform a jury. Your jury will be scheduled at the end of the semester and may or may not require piano accompaniment. If you require an accompanist, we may schedule the accompanist to come rehearse during one lesson. If you require additional rehearsals, you may schedule one additional rehearsal with your accompanist on your time and you must coordinate this directly with the pianist.

All students registered in applied lessons will also meet as a class every Tuesday at 1pm - 2pm during the semester in the Highland Recital Hall (2.2560). These are the
Studio classes and recital hours. These recitals will be a mixture of student performances, faculty performances, and seminars of interest to music students with guest speakers and artists. Students are required to attend a minimum of three studio classes and five recitals per semester. Students will receive a semester schedule of these at the first class meeting..

Students in level 3 are required to perform in one recital per semester.

Required Textbooks & Other Useful Materials

- Student-owned or rented double bass (limited basses are available through ACC that students may use; however, it is strongly encouraged that you bring the instrument you practice on at home for lessons). Please bring your appropriate bow for study (German vs. French)
- Method Books
    - *A New Technique for the Double Bass Volume 3* by Francois Rabbath
- Repertoire
    - *Six Suites* by JS Bach, Mark Bernat edition (Cello suites transposed for double bass)
- Etudes and Technique Studies:
    - *57 Studies* by Storch-Hrabe, Volume 1
    - Scale Collections: *Boardwalkin'* by Hal Robinson
    - Bow Technique: *Strokin'* by Hal Robinson
- Practice journal/notebook for lesson and practicing notes
- Access to internet to listen to recordings
- Pencils - must bring to lesson to take frequent notes, as well as during at-home practice
- Metronome and tuner- must have with you in lesson (can be a phone app)
- Repertoire in a black 3-ring binder, or a black folder
- Black concert clothing (including socks, shoes)
- Student may be asked to purchase originals of their repertoire. This is recommended in order to build a library of double bass music to use for a lifetime. Instructor will recommend correct editions.
- Rosin (I recommend Pops or Kolstein)
- Bass stool (optional, but if you perform with a stool please bring one to lessons!)

Student Learning Outcomes

Topics of instruction include classical technique as it relates to double bass performance, bow technique, knowledge of standard repertoire, music literacy, and musicological concepts which are related to bass performance and aural awareness.

The goal of this course is to foster the student's knowledge of repertoire and develop the technique and skill required to perform such repertoire. Students will be encouraged to explore their own sense of musicality on the instrument. Lessons will be structured based on student's ability and musical goals, but special attention will be paid to bass technique, bow technique, musicality, and appropriateness of musical styling as it relates to the history of double bass performance.

At the conclusion of the first semester of applied double bass, the student will be able to:

- Exhibit advanced knowledge of correct double bass technique in right and left hands, with mastery of most bow styles.
- Demonstrate 2 octave scales and arpeggios. Barrier Requirement: Two 3-octave scales in eighth notes, performed at quarter note = 60 bpm.
- Classical repertoire might include:
    - Bourree I & II from Bach Cello Suite 3
    - Dragonetti's Concerto, Mvt. 1
    - *Elegy* by G. Bottesini
    - *Prelude from Six Solos for Double Bass* by Dave Anderson
- Etudes/exercises might include:
    - *57 Studies* by Storch-Hrabe, Volume 1
    - *Boardwalkin'* by Hal Robinson
    - *Strokin'* by Hal Robinson
    - *A New Technique for the Double Bass Volume 3* by Francois Rabbath
- A barrier jury consisting of contrasting repertoire and technical scales must be presented at the end of the semester.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Develop instrumental skill through coaching, pedagogy, and instruction.
- Develop performance skill through a toolkit of proper practicing habits, performance practice, and expressive techniques.
- Demonstrate intelligent and professional communication on stage, interpersonally, and through music performance.
- Develop the habits necessary to succeed as a professional musician.
- Prepare participants for the conditions and demands they will face as professional performers.

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 sung 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 purposed or goal. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.

Grading

Your grade in applied lessons is determined by the guidelines below.

- **Lessons: 70%**
  - *Attendance*
    - You are expected to attend and be punctual for every lesson. This also includes studio classes and piano accompanist rehearsals.
    - Two excused absences from lessons will be allowed within reason.
    - After three missed lessons (excused or not excused) one letter grade will be lowered. You are responsible for attending each and every lesson. Missing one lesson is the equivalent of one week's instruction and habit building. I do not give makeup lessons due to student absence; I will give makeup lessons for my absences.
    - Being more than 10 minutes late to a lesson on three occasions equals one absence.
  - *Recital Requirement:* Students in Level 3 are required to perform in one Friday recital per semester. The penalty for students not performing in a Friday recital is one letter grade (this is a faculty policy).
  - GRADE - This is a faculty policy!
  - *Studio class:* Studio classes will be scheduled on an occasional basis. Attendance is **required** at studio class, and absences and/or tardies will be treated in the same manner as missed lessons. A schedule of studio classes will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Students will perform during their assigned week according to the schedule.
  - *Progress and improvement* shown each week through daily practice. It is the student's responsibility to make directed corrections in their music and their playing each week as advised by the professor.
  - *Preparation:* bringing required materials to every lesson
  - *Practice requirement:* Level 1 students must practice a minimum of 60 minutes per day
  - Daily practice log and weekly practice journaling

- **Jury: 30%**
  - Adjudicated performance once per semester (always the first Saturday in December and the first Saturday in May).
  - Must dress nicely and show up on time

*Students are expected to practice daily and demonstrate good practice habits (warming up, incorporating slow practice, consulting lesson journal, utilizing skills learned in lessons, eliminating distractions, metronome work)

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

Communication. Students must check their email at least once per school day, and reply to the

instructor within 24 hours. Please use appropriate and professional language in all communications with ACC faculty and your peers. I will happily provide instruction or guidance on professional communication.

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/

Missed Exams & Late Work. Deadlines in my course are firm. I give you a course calendar at the beginning of the term that includes all deadlines for the course. Should a deadline change, I will inform you in writing and in person. Here are some rules of thumb to go by:

- *I forgot to complete an assignment. Can I make it up?* Written assignments are accepted up to 48 hours late, with a grade penalty. Projects, Group Projects and Presentations will not be accepted late. Please be very aware of your partners in group projects.
- *I missed an activity that we completed during class. Can I make it up?* No, there is no way to make up an in-class activity.
- *I missed a quiz, can I make it up?* No, quizzes and tests are not accepted late.

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.