

Angelo State University

Low-Brass Studio Syllabus

MUAP 1100 09Z - MUAP 1201 08Z - MUAP 2201 08Z
MUAP 3202 04Z - MUAP 4101 03Z

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Shipes
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Office Hours:

T/R 11:00 - 12:00
W 12:00 - 1:00

Meeting Times:

Weekly Lessons - individually scheduled in room 215
Low-Brass Ensemble/Studio Class - MWF 3:00-4:00 in Carr 134

Course Objectives:

- Developing skills, techniques and competencies required of professionals in the field of music to perform and teach at the highest level.
- Learning how to self-assess and improve outside of the lesson/classroom
- Become excellent communicators through music - both by playing the instrument and by teaching
- Build a library of information, materials and equipment that will be used to move forward in the related career-field or education.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Develop a characteristic sound on their respective instrument
- Perform repertoire from a variety of styles and eras reflecting understanding of the material
- Master the technique required of the instrument, as shown through jury performance, scale memorization, and solo/etude/excerpt preparation

Required Materials:

Equipment:

- A professional model tuba, euphonium, trombone or bass-trombone in excellent working condition. This implies a 4-valve compensating euphonium, a full-size BBb or CC contrabass tuba (at least 4/4 size) with at least 4-valves, a large-bore trombone with F attachment, or a large bore bass-trombone with 2 valves, produced by reputable, professional instrument manufactures. (e.g. Besson Sovereign or comparable for euphonium, Miraphone 186 or

comparable for tuba, Bach 42B or comparable for trombone, Conn 112H/Holton TR181 or comparable for bass trombone). There are many options with purchasing instruments so be sure to educate and inform yourself before making any decisions. Students will work with me to determine what instrument will be the best fit. Some instruments are available to check-out from the department.

- Metronome (or app)
- Tuner (or app)

Etude/Methods Books:

Please do not purchase these materials until after our first lesson unless told otherwise. While the books in the **required** section for each instrument will be used consistently over several semesters, individuals may require different materials based on their current level of playing.

For Tuba:

The following books are **required** for music majors

- Arban, Complete Method for Tuba (Wes Jacobs Encore Edition)
- Bai Lin, Lip Flexibilities
- Blazhevich, 70 Advanced Etudes vol. 1
- Bordogni, Complete Vocalises for Tuba (Wes Jacobs Encore Edition)
- Edwards, Simply Singing for Winds (Low Bass Clef)

The following books are either **recommended** or will be assigned individually:

- Fink, Studies in Legato for Bass Trombone
- Kopprasch, 60 Selected Studies for tuba
- Pilafian, The Brass Gym for Tuba
- Senon, Kaleidoscope for Tuba, Vol. 1
- Snedecor, Low Etudes for Tuba
- Milt Stevens, Scale and Arpeggio Routines (bass trombone and tuba)
- Tyrell, 40 Advanced Studies for BBb Bass

For Euphonium:

The following books are **required** for music majors

- Arban, Complete Method for Trombone or Euphonium (Bowman/Alessi edition)
- Bai Lin, Lip Flexibilities
- Edwards, Simply Singing for Winds (medium bass clef)
- Pottag and Andraud, 335 Selected Melodious, Technical Studies Book 1 for French Horn
- Rochut, Melodious Etudes for Trombone book 1

The following books are either **recommended** or will be assigned individually:

- Fink, Studies in Legato for Trombone
- Kopprasch, 60 Selected Studies for Trombone
- Mead, New Concert Studies for Euphonium Volumes 1 and 2
- Payne, Euphonium Excerpts
- Pilafian, The Brass Gym for Euphonium

- Milt Stevens, Scale and Arpeggio Routines (trombone, euphonium)
- Tyrell, 40 Progressive Studies for Trombone
- Voxman (Rubank) Selected Studies for Baritone

For Tenor Trombone:

The following books are **required** for music majors:

- Arban, Complete Method for Trombone or Euphonium (Bowman/Alessi edition)
- Rochut, Melodious Etudes for Trombone book 1
- Edwards, Introductory Studies in Tenor and Alto Clef for Trombone
- Edwards, Simply Singing for Winds (medium bass clef)
- Edwards, Lip Slurs

The following books are either **recommended** or will be assigned individually:

- Fink, Studies in Legato for Trombone
- Kopprasch, 60 Selected Studies for Trombone
- Milt Stevens, Scale and Arpeggio Routines (trombone, euphonium)
- Tyrell, 40 Progressive Studies for Trombone
- Voxman (Rubank) Selected Studies for Trombone

For Bass Trombone:

The following books are **required** for music majors:

- Arban, Complete Method for Trombone or Euphonium (Bowman/Alessi edition)
- Fink - Studies in Legato for Bass Trombone
- Edwards, Simply Singing for Winds (low bass clef)
- Edwards - Lip Slurs
- Tyrell - 40 Advanced Studies (the tuba book)

The following books are either **recommended** or will be assigned individually:

- Blazhevich, 70 Advanced Etudes vol. 1
- Bordogni, Complete Vocalises for Tuba (Wes Jacobs Encore Edition)
- Edwards, Introductory Studies in Tenor and Alto Clef for Trombone
- Gillis, 20 Etudes for Bass Trombone
- Kopprasch, 60 Selected Studies for Tuba, ed. Jerry Young
- Ostrander, Basic Techniques for the Double Valve Bass Trombone

Required materials must be ordered **immediately** after our first lesson and brought to your lesson **within 2 weeks** of assignment. For ordering, I recommend amazon.com, justforbrass.com, or hickeys.com. Find the best prices. Individual solo repertoire will also be assigned in addition to the etude books listed above. Be prepared to spend an average of \$50-100 each semester on books and solo materials. Some will be more, some will be less. You can use coupon code "SHIPES" at justforbrass.com for 10% off solo pieces (sheet music) only. Failure to order assigned materials will **lower your lesson grade**.

If it is a shipping issue, or the materials are backordered/out of print, then bring me your order receipt and notification that the item is delayed from the publisher. I will likely have spare copies of the music that you can use while waiting. *Please come to me with any ordering issues, and I would be happy to help you find what you need ahead of time.*

Criteria for Final Lesson Grade:

Jury Grade - 1/3 of Total

Studio/Lesson - 2/3 of Total

This Studio/Lesson Total is comprised of:

- Average of all lesson grades 80%
- Scale Test Pass/Fail (see below)
- Studio Listening/Writing Assignments and Participation 20%

Course Description:

Our goal with private lessons is two-fold, to become better instrumentalists and to become better musicians. In lessons, we will spend much of our time dealing with the mechanics of playing: articulation, scales, tone production, tonguing, phrasing, etc. All of us need to achieve technical mastery on our instruments in order to teach and perform effectively. Equally important is developing the musical side of our performance as well. Music is a communicative art form, and the music we make must serve a purpose, and tell a story beyond the notes and rhythms. Listening to music, both live and recorded, is vital to your development as a performer and teacher of music, and will help to form and refine both the technical and musical aspects of playing as much as your actual practice time.

Each week, you will be given assignments in several potential categories: etudes, solos, scales, fundamentals, and excerpts. These assignments will be personalized for each student, and a grade will be given each week based on your individualized progress.

Lesson Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled lessons. Please try to give me **24 hours notice** if you need to be absent. I am happy to make up lessons that are missed for legitimate reasons at a time that is convenient for both of us. You may miss one lesson without penalty. Not showing up for a second lesson will result in an **F** for that lesson (**0%**). Your third missed lesson will result in a maximum grade of **B** for the course. Each additional missed lesson will lower your total grade by another letter. Of course, there is no penalty for lessons that are made up. I will always try to make up lessons that I need to miss due to professional or personal reasons.

Recital Attendance:

You are required to attend all low brass studio recitals, brass faculty recitals, and brass guest artist recitals. You must also attend all weekly departmental recitals Wednesdays at 4:00 in EBRH (beginning 10/10/2018). It is recommended that you attend as many other faculty, guest artist, and large-ensemble performances as you can.

Low Brass Ensemble/Studio Class:

Studio class is both an opportunity to teach and lead discussions concerning topics like practicing, audition preparation, or breathing to name a few, as well as an opportunity for us to perform for each other and offer constructive feedback. A performance schedule is posted on my office door, Carr 215.

All majors in the low-brass studio will participate in low-brass ensemble. This is comprised of rehearsals of chamber music for the instruments, and enables us to practice good musicianship and concepts like matching tuning, tone, and style in a more isolated setting than the large ensembles.

Required Events:

All **Music-Majors** are required to attend all departmental recitals, low brass student recitals, studio classes, low-brass ensemble rehearsals, brass faculty recitals, and brass guest artist recitals and masterclasses. **Non-Majors** (MUAP 1100) are not required but it is recommended you do.

You are responsible for keeping track of required events! A schedule of required recitals and studio events will be posted on the brass studios board once the semester starts. Attendance will be taken at all events.

Attendance Grade:

You may miss one required studio event without penalty. Afterwards, each additional absence will count off half a letter grade (or 5%) of your semester average. It is your responsibility to let me know about University excused absences or other valid reasons for needing to miss.

Preparation:

You must practice regularly to be successful in applied lessons. At a **minimum** all music majors should warm-up and practice fundamentals for **thirty** minutes a day, and practice your assigned lesson materials for **one hour** each day. Everyone is different and this should serve as a general guideline. The amount we practice will inevitably fluctuate depending on what is going on in our lives each week. Be sure that your overall average does not fall below this amount (10.5 hours total per week).

Ideally, a B.M. major with specialization in Teacher Certification will practice at least **two** hours total every day, and a B.M. major with specialization in Applied Performance will practice at least **three** hours total every day. Keep in mind that just meeting the minimum practice amount does not guarantee that you will receive an **A** in lessons.

What to bring to your lesson:

- Your instrument!
- All assigned materials - including solos, etudes, etc
- metronome
- Tuner

Failure to bring any of these items will result in a **lowered lesson grade (B if you earned an A, D if you earned a C, etc)**. Of course the lesson is an **F** or should be rescheduled if you do not have your instrument.

Weekly Lesson Grading Procedures:

You will be given assignments for each lesson. Here is a general guideline for grading:
A (90-100%) - It is obvious that you have prepared the music and fundamentals/exercises for the lesson. You have mastered the technique at your *individual level* and have given thought into the artistic interpretation of the assignment. You are treating the lesson as a performance so we can continue to refine your technique and interpretation efficiently.

B (80-89%) - You have prepared pretty well for the lesson. There are still several issues that have not been addressed from your assignment. You are making progress, but need to put more time into refining your technique and the artistic interpretation. You know you can do better!

C (70-79%) - You are not completing the assignment. You spent some time working through it but there are many technical errors or hesitations, and little or no artistic interpretation. You understand the material but cannot demonstrate it effectively.

D (50-69%) - You did not prepare the assignment at all, but come to the lesson on time and make some progress in person. You show little improvement from the previous week.

F (0-49%) - This lesson is either an unexcused absence or a complete waste of time. You either did not bring required materials (instrument, music, mouthpiece), or did not take the lesson seriously. It is obvious you did not prepare or practice at all this week.

Your grades are not a secret, I will be happy to address any questions you have about the grades you earn throughout the semester. While everyone is at a different level of playing, these general guidelines should hold true regardless of this level.

Juries:

All students will perform a jury at the end of each semester. If the performance requires accompaniment, you must arrange to bring your accompanist to your lesson (or another mutually agreed upon time) at least **two weeks** before the jury. The jury may include solo repertoire, etudes, scales, or other assigned materials from throughout the semester. You must also fill out an *Instrumental Applied Music Report (Jury Form)* which can be found here: http://www.angelo.edu/dept/arts/music/current_students.php You will be judged by a panel of studio faculty on your performance. This grade will make-up 1/3 of your final grade in the course. Brass juries will be held **Monday, December 10**. Sign-up sheets will be posted near the brass studios (CARR 214, 215).

Departmental Recitals:

All students will also prepare a work for the Departmental Student Recital once per semester (except first-semester Freshmen). This includes a work from the standard repertoire and be no more than seven minutes in length. **Failing to perform on this recital will lower your final grade for applied lessons by a letter.** Freshmen may perform their first semester if they are ready.

You must provide me with your program information at least one week before your performance. This includes the title of the piece, movements you are performing, the composer, editor or arranger (if any), the composer's life dates, as well as the year of composition. Failure to do this will result in your name being left off of the program, and possibly being unable to perform on that recital.

If you are performing anywhere in public:

For all public performances (juries, solo recitals, departmental recital performances, etc.) I must hear you rehearse with your accompanist at least **2 weeks** before the performance. We will preferably meet during your regular lesson time, but we can schedule another time that we are all available as well.

Scale Test:

All music majors will be required to complete a scale exam at a scheduled time each semester. Scales are not only a great way to objectively judge one's technical progress on their instrument, but also serve as basic building blocks of the music we play. Mastery of all scales is vital to really getting to know your instrument, as well as sight-reading effectively. Scale exams will be graded as pass/fail and will consist of the required scales for that semester of study (e.g. major scales in semester 1, natural minor in semester 2, etc). Each individual scale will be "passed" if you play it without any mistakes at the assigned tempo. A miss will count as a "strike." Three strikes on any scale will fail that entire scale test.

All scales must be **memorized**. The purpose of this exercise is to build *fluency* in your instrument.

Failure to pass the scale test by exam week (Monday 12/10) will lower your course average by a **letter grade**.

Scale Requirements:

Semester	Requirements	Tempo
1	All major scales, 2 octaves where possible F to F chromatic scale, 2 octaves	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 72
2	All natural minor scales, 2 octaves where possible	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 72
3	All harmonic minor scales, 2 octaves where possible	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 84
4	All melodic minor scales, 2 octaves	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 84
5	Whole Tone Scales, 2 octaves, starting on any pitch covering the range of the instrument	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 92
6	Blues Scales, 2 octaves in all keys	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 96
7	Diminished Scales, 2 octaves, whole-half, and half-whole	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 102
8	Same as above	Eighth-notes at quarter note = 108

Using this table, you should always be **adding** the next section to what came before it. So by semester 4, you will be tested on major and all forms of minor scales in all keys in 2 octaves.

Prerequisite Requirement to Perform Junior or Senior Recital:

Before performing the Junior Recital for BM - Applied majors (MUAP 3199) or the Senior Recital for BM - Teacher Certification majors (MUAP 4199), you must have departmental approval and pass a performance skills test.

Skills Test:

This test may be attempted any semester, but is designed to be completed during the fourth semester of study (MUAP 2202). As mentioned before, it must be completed before registering for a Junior or Senior Recital. Students must declare that they will be attempting the skills test by the end of the fourth week of class in the semester they wish to complete it.

For all instruments:

- Scales
 - All scales up to semester 4 (Major, all forms of minor, chromatic 2 octaves)
- Major and minor arpeggios 2 octaves

Etudes and exercises that demonstrate the following:

- Articulation and multiple tonguing
- Lip slur mastery from the fundamental up to the 8th partial

For trombone and bass trombone:

- Legato style (lip slur, natural slur, legato tongue)
- Fluency in clefs (bass, tenor and alto clef)

For euphonium:

- Excellent finger technique
- Fluency in clefs (bass, and Bb treble clef)

For tuba:

- Excellent finger technique
- Excellent low-register

Specific etudes and exercises will be assigned during the semester that each student will be completing the skills test.

Accessibility:

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodation must contact the Student Life Office, room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

For information regarding ASU website accessibility see <http://www.angelo.edu/welcome/accessibility.php>.

For information about disability accommodations see https://www.angelo.edu/services/student_services/.

Academic Integrity:

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code. The ASU Academic Honor Code can be found at <http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php>

Please read the Honor Code to fully understand the importance of academic honesty and the range of sanctions for academic dishonesty.

Religious Holy Day:

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

A student who is excused for a religious holy day may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.