Iowa State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Music Department  

**Syllabus: Studio Clarinet**  
MUSIC 118F, 119F, 219F, 318F, 319F, 419F  
Meeting Hours: By Appointment  

**Instructor:** Dr. Gregory Oakes  
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:10–3:00 and by appointment  
Music Hall 215  
goakes@iastate.edu  

**Course Description**  
This course is a combination of weekly, private instruction and diligent, daily practice. Students enrolled for 3 credit hours will receive 50 minutes of private instruction per week. The student will improve his/her performance on the clarinet by solidifying fundamentals, facilitating better technique, and increasing awareness of standard repertoire for the instrument.

**Required Materials**  
Clarinet in good repair and quality reeds in playable condition. Expect to use a box of reeds per month under average practicing and performing conditions.  
Notebook (to be used exclusively for clarinet study)  
Metronome  
Tuner  
Recordable CDs. Bring at least 13 at the beginning of the semester for recording each week’s lesson.  
Recording equipment with a quality microphone to use for individual assessment (e.g. Minidisc, DAT, or other digital recorder)  

**Required Text**  
Printed materials covering technique, etudes, and literature as directed by the instructor to suit the individual student’s needs and ability. Students must obtain the assigned materials before the next lesson following an assignment.
Course Objectives

Clarinetists will improve their instrumental and musical ability through directed, individual study. The needs of individuals vary, so the specific content and direction of study will not be identical for all students. However, all students should be able to meet the following objectives in each lesson.

1. **Scales** Play all assigned major and minor scales, with extended range, accurately and evenly.

2. **Exercises** Perform assigned technical exercises. Success will be measured by technical improvement (50%), rhythmic accuracy (25%), and intonation (25%).

3. **Etudes** Perform a new assigned etude each week. The quality of the performance is measured through technical accuracy (20%), rhythmic accuracy (20%), intonation (20%), musicality (20%), and stylistic appropriateness (20%). The first two criteria can be met through attention to the written page. Intonation can be measured with a tuner. And musicality and stylistic appropriateness are a product of considerations of idiomatic performance practice and historical tradition.

4. **Repertoire** Perform the assigned portion of a given piece of repertoire. The quality of the performance is measured through technical accuracy (20%), rhythmic accuracy (20%), intonation (20%), musicality (20%), and stylistic appropriateness (20%) as in the etudes, above.

The following rubric gives an idea of how your work is evaluated.

100% Complete familiarity with material; no errors or hesitation in performance
90% Excellent familiarity with material; occasional error that doesn't repeat on a second performance
80% Good familiarity with material; rare persistent errors that the student is in the process of working through
70% Some familiarity with material; student continues to demonstrate errors from previous lessons
60% Passing familiarity with material; student has difficulty getting through passages at any tempo
50% No familiarity with material; performance in lesson is similar to the process of learning and practicing
40% No familiarity with material; performance shows lack of prerequisite skills necessary to begin work on assignment
0% Student cannot or will not play the material
**Attendance**

Students are expected to arrive on time to their lessons with their instrument(s) assembled and warmed up. Students arriving more than ten minutes late to a lesson will be marked absent from that lesson. Any unexcused absence will be recorded as a failing grade for that lesson. Students may be excused in case of illness, family emergency, or School of Music events only. In any of these cases, students must still notify Dr. Oakes by phone or e-mail before their scheduled lesson time, 24 hours in advance except in cases of extreme emergency.

Students wishing to change their lesson times should first try to trade with other students before contacting the professor. Students will have the best chance at finding a suitable trade or other lesson time when they try to reschedule a week in advance.

Students must attend clarinet class, which meets on Tuesdays at 1:10pm in the clarinet studio.

Students must enroll in clarinet choir and participate. Clarinet choir meets at 4:10pm on Wednesdays in Music Hall 125.

**Communication**

Students must obtain an e-mail account and check it regularly. By default, the university-assigned e-mail address will be the one used unless students notify Dr. Oakes by e-mail of the address that they wish to use. Periodic announcements will go out via e-mail, and students are responsible to know the content of those e-mails. Also, there will be a clarinet studio web site that students should check on a regular basis. That site will have the most current information regarding required concerts, studio announcements, etc.

**Required Concerts**

Students are required to attend at least twelve (12) concerts each semester. These concerts must be in the vein of classical music. Within one week of the concert, students must turn in a review of the event with the event program attached. The review must be a discussion of the pieces heard on the concert. Approach each review with scholarly rigor: any review not standing up to the standards of an academic paper will not be acceptable. Six of the concert reviews are due by the middle of the semester, and the other six are due at the end of the semester.
Although most of the concerts are at the discretion of the student, certain concerts are mandatory. These include:

One Diversity concert (required by NASM. This review should be handed in to the front office).

Required clarinet concerts as posted on the bulletin board outside the clarinet studio. These concerts include all clarinet recitals and solo performances involving significant clarinet repertoire.

**Assessment**

Final grades will consist of

60% Lesson Performance—A total of all the lessons as measured by the guidelines given in the “Objectives” section.

10% Concert attendance and reviews

10% Materials and Instrument—Have all assigned music by the lesson following an assignment. Students must also keep their clarinet in good repair and have a supply of quality, broken-in reeds. Students will receive a grade for each lesson. Students coming to a lesson without having fixed a previously-addressed instrument or reed issue will receive a failing grade for this portion.

20% Juries—An average of the grades from the faculty for the end-of-semester juries.
The following percentage scale will determine grades for this class:

- 93%–100%  A
- 90%–92%    A–
- 87%–89%    B+
- 83%–86%    B
- 80%–82%    B–
- 77%–79%    C+
- 73%–76%    C
- 70%–72%    C–
- 67%–69%    D+
- 63%–66%    D
- 60%–62%    D–
- 0%–59%     F

**Practicing**

**Daily** practice is essential and the single most important component of a musician’s development. For performance majors, the following schedule of practice times indicates projected improvement:

- 3 hours: minimum for maintenance
- 4 hours: improvement
- 5 hours: noticeable improvement (expected for the top students)

Education majors can decrease each of these amounts by one hour. However, the best improvement will always come from well-planned, consistent practice. Students should plan to spend their daily practice similarly to the following outline:

- 30-45 minutes  Warm-up
- 45-90 minutes  Scales and Technique
- 45-90 minutes  Etudes
- 45-90 minutes  Literature