Iowa State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Music and Theater  

Syllabus: Woodwind Methods MUSIC 351 (clarinet)  
Music Hall 125, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2:10–3:00pm  

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 an introduction to clarinet, saxophone, and flute for students in the instrumental education program. The goal of the course is to provide the information necessary for students to give useful and meaningful advice to beginning woodwind instrumentalists. Students will learn to perform at a rudimentary level on all instruments. This portion of the course covers clarinet pedagogy and performance.  

Supplies  
• Rubank Elementary Method, Himie Voxman, ed., available at Rieman Music  
• Reeds—no fewer than 2 working reeds at all times. All reeds must be in good playing condition without chips or splits. You can find reeds at Rieman Music.  
  If you are not a wind player, get Vandoren size 2 reeds  
  If you are a wind player but not familiar with reeds, get Vandoren size 2½ reeds  
  If you are already somewhat familiar with playing single reeds, get Vandoren size 3 reeds  
• Instrument in good working condition, checked out to you on the first day of class  
• Three-ring binder to hold class handouts.  

Assessment  
Final grades for the clarinet portion of the class will consist of  

20% class performance—a combination of attendance and participation in classroom discussion. Every class for which you attend and participate, you will receive 100% for that day. Every unexcused absence counts as a 0% for that day.
In cases of illness, students must provide a doctor’s note to be excused. For any other absence, make arrangements in advance in order to request an excuse. No after-the-fact excuses will be granted. This portion of the grade is the easiest to do perfectly!

15% quizzes—either announced in advance or given without warning, playing and/or written quizzes may happen at any time throughout the clarinet portion of the class.

25% teaching exam—each student will teach a mock lesson on the clarinet. Knowledge of proper pedagogy and ability to communicate are key. Students will diagnose and recommending solutions for the most common issues in clarinet playing based on the topics and strategies discussed in class.

20% end of section playing exam—in the performance section, the student will play two easy selections plus major and chromatic scales.

20% end of section written exam—the written section will include questions concerning fingerings, articulations, beginning repertory, typical issues, and the care and repair of the clarinet.

The following percentage scale will determine grades for the 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

**Schedule**

- 1.11.2010 Instrument check out, syllabus review, instrument assembly
- 1.13.2010 Breathing, embouchure, oral cavity, chalumeau register
- 1.15.2010 Hand position, side keys, A & G# key, G major scale, Bb major scale
1.18.2010  No Class (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
1.20.2010  Articulation, lower pinky keys, F major scale, E major scale
1.22.2010  Chromatic scale to low E, A major scale, Ab major scale
1.25.2010  Clarion register, D major scale, B major scale
1.27.2010  Reed issues and adjustment, Eb major scale, C major scale
1.29.2010  Equipment issues, Chromatic scale, F# major scale
2.1.2010   Teaching Exam
2.3.2010   Teaching Exam (continued)
2.5.2010   Selecting equipment for advancing clarinetists (with Cyclone Honor Band clinicians)
2.8.2010   Altissimo register, Db major scale
2.10.2010  Review
2.12.2010  No Class
2.15.2010  No Class
2.17.2010  Playing Exam
2.19.2010  Written Exam
2.22.2010  First day of saxophone portion of course