Instrumental Techniques: Low Brass
Music 354
Spring, 2013
Iowa State University Department of Music

Dr. Erik W. Richards
Email: ErikR1@iastate.edu
Class Time: T R 11:00a.m. - 11:50a.m.
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00pm-2:00pm, or by appointment.

Course Description and General Objectives
This course is designed to develop a general understanding of low brass playing techniques and related pedagogy, with special attention to beginning and intermediate-level instruction. The student will demonstrate basic performance skills on trombone, euphonium, and tuba, as well as develop resource materials pertaining to their pedagogy (including adaptive techniques) and history.

Instruction
Class instruction will derive from a mixture of lecture, demonstration, discussion of assigned readings, and discussion of areas of need related to individual practice and in-class performance. Students will be expected to demonstrate solo and ensemble playing skills in each class. As this class is designed primarily to develop pedagogic skill, a number of class meetings will be student-lead.

Required Texts
A Complete Guide to Brass, 3rd edition by Scott Whitener
Essential Elements 2000: Trombone Book 1
Essential Elements 2000: Tuba Book 1

Attendance
You need to be prepared to begin class at 11:00 AM. There are no tardies for this class - you are either here when class begins, or you are absent. Each student is allowed one excused absence. After the first absence, the final grade will be reduced by one full letter grade for each additional day missed.

Instruments
The instruments used in this course are supplied by Iowa State University and may be obtained by following standard instrument checkout procedures. Students are responsible for the care of any instruments checked out to them. Damage as a result of carelessness will be the student’s responsibility. Instrument checkout hours are posted throughout Music Hall. The student is solely responsible for obtaining an instrument for use in class.

Assignments & Tests
All assignments are due at 11:00am on the assigned due date. Absolutely no late work will be accepted, including in the case of illness. Likewise, no make-up tests will be given. All written assignments must strictly adhere to the published submission guidelines. Written work must follow APA style and be submitted in class as a hard copy. NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ELECTRONICALLY.
Evaluation
Grades for this course are assigned based upon attained competency according to the following rubric:

- **A** = All Course requirements completed with exceptional scholarship. Not more than one absence. *Extra Evidence project completed.
- **B** = All Course requirements competed with competence and accuracy. Two absences.
- **C** = All Course requirements adequately completed. Three absences.
- **D** = Some course requirements not completed. Four Absences.
- **F** = Most Course requirements are not adequately completed. More than 4 absences

Incompletes are not given

* Students wishing to earn a final grade of “A” for this course will need to complete an Extra Evidence of Scholarship project. This project must be a product and can only be completed if all the requirements for a final grade of “B” have been met. More information on this will be given in class.

Specific Assignments (see attached for further details)
Practice 15 minutes a day
Complete in-class teaching demonstrations as assigned (no fewer than 3)
Complete written tests as assigned
Complete three (3) performance evaluations (one per instrument)
Complete three (3) journal article reviews
Complete three (3) online resource reviews
Complete one (1) concert/recital review
Complete one (1) book report

Please note: at the discretion of the instructor, assignments may be added, removed, or altered to best meet the needs of the class. Also, students whose major instrument is trombone, euphonium, or tuba will be required to complete additional assignments.

**Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Student Disability Resource (SDR) office (phone 515-294-7220). SDR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076. Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs**
Detailed Submission Guidelines

Article Reviews

There are many resources available to help teachers learn new concepts about teaching techniques for band and band instruments. Journals are published by each instrument society (International Trumpet Guild, International Tuba Euphonium Society, etc.) as well as magazines and journals published by various music education organizations (NAfME, etc.).

In this project, you will find three articles that cover a specific concept or teaching technique(s) for low brass. One article must focus on Trombone, one on Euphonium, and one on Tuba.

For each article review, you will turn in the following items in this order:

1. COVER PAGE – include the title of the article, the author’s name, your name, course title, and date submitted.

2. ARTICLE REVIEW – one page minimum, two pages maximum
   A. Bibliography information in APA format at the bottom of your last page.
   B. Summary of the article IN YOUR OWN WORDS! Do not plagiarize.
   C. At least one paragraph on the practical applications of the concepts found in the article (i.e., how can you use this in your classroom?).

3. PHOTOCOPY OF THE ARTICLE

A copy of your work must be presented IN HARD COPY to each member of the class. Please confer with your colleagues to ensure you are all reviewing different articles. PLAN AHEAD!

Article reviews must strictly adhere to the APA style format. Submissions that do not follow APA format will be rejected.

You will give a five minute presentation on the website you reviewed in class

You can find information on APA style online at http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx or in the APA Publication Handbook located in the library.

Possible resources may include but are not limited to:
   The Instrumentalist, Music Educators Journal, ITES Journal, etc.

Trombone Article Review DUE: February 28th
Euphonium Review DUE: March 28th
Tuba Review DUE: April 25th
Online Resource Reviews

There are many resources available online to help teachers learn new concepts about teaching techniques for band and band instruments.

In this project, you will find three websites that cover a specific concept or teaching technique(s) for low brass. One website must focus on Trombone, one on Euphonium, and one on Tuba.

For each review, you will turn in the following items in this order:

1. COVER PAGE - include the title of the webpage, the author’s name (if available), your name, course title, and date submitted.

2. WEBSITE REVIEW - one page minimum, two pages maximum
   A. Bibliography information in APA format at the bottom of your last page.
   B. Summary of the website.
   C. At least one paragraph on the practical applications of the concepts found in the article (i.e., how can you use this in your classroom?).

3. URL of the webpage

A copy of your work must be presented IN HARD COPY to each member of the class. Please confer with your colleagues to ensure you are all reviewing different websites. PLAN AHEAD!!

Reviews must strictly adhere to the APA style format. Submissions that do not follow APA format will be rejected.

You will give a five minute presentation on the website you reviewed in class

You can find information on APA style online at http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx or in the APA Publication Handbook located in the library.

Trombone online resource review DUE: February 21st
Euphonium online resource review DUE: March 21st
Tuba online resource review DUE: April 18th
Teaching Demonstrations

The primary focus of this class is to develop pedagogical techniques as they pertain to low brass instruments. As such, during each unit you will have an opportunity to practice teaching your peers. You may be asked to teach about any aspect of low brass performance, including history, important performers, breathing, posture, etc. On the day of your teaching demonstration it is expected that you dress professionally. You will need to provide the instructor with a complete lesson plan. You must also prepare a handout for the class. Lesson plans and handouts may be in any format you wish, but they must be typed. You should plan your lesson to cover at LEAST 15 minutes. Your classmates will provide written critique of your lesson.

You should expect to complete 3-4 teaching demonstrations during the course of the semester.

Concert or Recital Review

Submit programs for one (1) concert or recital along with a one (1) page review outlining the application of the brass instruments observed. The concert or recital you review may NOT be one in which you are a performer.

Due: Before April 25th

Book Report

Select a book of your choice and write a brief, two-page (2) book report. The book you choose must be related to low brass in some way (pedagogy, biography of a major performer, etc.). Submissions must be in APA format.

Due: Before April 25th