

Iowa State University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Low Brass Methods Syllabus
Spring 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nathan Dishman
COURSE TITLE: Brass: Trombone, Baritone, Tuba
COURSE NUMBER: Music 354
CREDIT HOURS: 1
COURSE TIMES: T R 11-11:50am
COURSE LOCATION: Music Hall 130
OFFICE: Music Hall 239
PHONE: Office: 515-294-7391
E-MAIL: ndishman@iastate.edu

Course Description: This course is designed to give the future teacher the basic knowledge and skills they will need to teach low brass instruments effectively to students of all levels. This will involve general knowledge, teaching theory and practicum, and basic performance mastery.

Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Teach and demonstrate for a student how to assemble his or her instrument, using a step-by-step set of instructions, including how to:
 - a) open the case
 - b) assemble the instrument

- 2) Teach and demonstrate for a student how to properly hold his or her instrument, including:
 - a) hand/finger/arm position
 - b) instrument angle
 - c) posture (sitting and/or standing)

- 3) Teach and demonstrate for a student how to produce a good quality tone on his or her instrument, including:
 - a) breath control – air management
 - b) embouchure formation, placement on the instrument, and how to properly manipulate the embouchure

- 4) Teach and demonstrate (if possible) for a student the correct slide positions and fingerings for two chromatic octaves and how it relates to the harmonic series of the instrument.

- 5) Teach and demonstrate for a student how to properly care for and maintain his or her instrument, including step-by-step procedures for the following:
 - a) routine cleaning of the instrument
 - b) how to apply lubricants

- 6) Recommend appropriate equipment for all levels of students (beginner/intermediate/professional), including:
 - a) mouthpieces (have knowledge of the major brand numbering systems)
 - b) instruments
- 7) Recommend professional recording musicians for reference for students.
- 8) Name and identify the parts of the instrument.
- 9) Name at least five (5) solo pieces from each grade level (levels 1-6) for each instrument (30 solos total).
- 10) Name several graded studies and methods for each instrument.
- 11) Understand and be able to explain the harmonic series and its relationship to slide positions and valve fingerings.
- 12) Understand when and how to utilize brass mutes, including:
 - a) terminology (in most commonly found languages)
 - b) types of mutes
 - c) recommended brands
 - d) pitch problems related to using mutes
- 13) Understand the pitch tendencies for each instrument and how to adjust the instrument

Required Text:

Whitener, Scott. *A Complete Guide to Brass*, 3rd Edition. California: Thompson Schirmer, 2007.

Three-ringed binder with tabbed dividers.

Assignments/Grading:

Students are expected to come prepared to every class. Every student is expected to practice the instrument being studied (trombone, euphonium, or tuba) 20-30 minutes a day for a minimum of 3 hours per week. Reading assignments will cover chapters in Whitener's "*A Complete Guide to Brass*" and various handouts/online articles. Course documents/handouts on Canvas (or sent electronically) should be printed out and brought to class on the date listed. Reading assignments must be completed before class so you are fully prepared for the class discussion.

Final grades will be determined by the following breakdown:

1. Four playing exams 40% (10% each)
 (or teaching assignments for low brass majors)
2. Trombone written exam 15%
3. Euph/tuba written exam 20%
4. Teaching exam/demo 10%
5. Unannounced quiz(s) over 5%
 assigned readings
6. Notebook 10%

Attendance:

While attendance does not appear in the grading policy breakdown, it is expected that you will attend every class. Advanced notice for any absence is required. Whether or not the absence is excused or unexcused will be determined by the course instructor. After the first unexcused absence, each unexcused absence will lower your final grade one half letter, ex. A to A-, etc.

Late/Make-up Assignments/Quizzes/Exams:

Make-ups will only be available due to a legitimate excused absence approved in advance by the instructor. If the student fails to meet these requirements, make-up exams/quizzes, and late assignments will not be allowed, and the resulting grade will be zero. All assignments are expected to be turned in on time.

Teaching Exam/Demonstration:

You will be required to teach a person who has never played a low brass instrument. The teaching exam may be completed on your choice of instrument (trombone, euphonium, or tuba) and will be videorecorded and uploaded to Canvas. You will have 10 minutes to display your knowledge and understanding of teaching techniques as it applies to the student. There will be additional instructions as the teaching exam approaches. Please see Canvas for an example teaching video.

Notebook: DUE DATE is Tuesday, April 30

You will turn in a notebook (3 Ring binder) that will serve as a resource in your career. **ALL NOTES MUST BE TYPED, ORGANIZED, and INCLUDE THOROUGH INFORMATION FROM LECTURES. ALL HANDOUTS OR DOCUMENTS ON CANVAS OR SENT ELECTRONICALLY SHOULD BE INCLUDED.** The notebook must be divided into sections using tabbed dividers. **TABS AND TITLE PAGE MUST ALSO BE TYPED.** The sections will be labeled:

Title Page (preceding first tab or on front cover of binder) – Name of Class, Name, Year

- Section 1- Parts of the Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba
- Section 2- Slide Positions and Fingering Charts
- Section 3- Scales and Exercises
- Section 4- Care and Maintenance
- Section 5- Common Problems: Diagnosis/Prescription
- Section 6- Recommended Equipment (instrument brands, mouthpieces, mutes)
- Section 7- Recording Artists
- Section 8- Recommended Literature (solos by grade and method books)

*The notebook will be handed back for you to use on the Final Exam. It will be to your benefit to turn in a superbly organized notebook. Obviously, photocopies of the textbook will not be allowed.

Instrument Check-out/Liability

It is your responsibility to keep each instrument safe that is checked out to you throughout this course. You are responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. If loss or damage occurs, your student account will be charged. It is recommended to store your instrument in a locker, which may be obtained by contacting the Music Hall front office.

University Policies:

Academic Dishonesty

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Harassment and Discrimination

Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

Religious Accommodation

If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

Freedom of Speech

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Contact Information

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu