Stephen F. Austin State University

Double Bass Lessons

Fall 2021

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Course Description

Between 1-3 hours of credit, half-hour to an hour instruction per week. One credit for secondary instrument or minors, non-majors or undeclared majors, 2-3 credits for string majors. Placement audition required. Instruction in double bass. May be repeated for credit, may not be taken for audit.

Attendance

You are expected to attend and be well prepared at every scheduled lesson. Be prepared with all the assigned work even though it may not all be heard at each lesson. You are also expected to attend studio class on Thursdays at 6:30, in room 152. You are allowed one unprepared lesson each semester due to term papers, exams, family emergencies or illness. If you are so ill that you should not attend a lesson, please inform me as early as possible, so that I can make good use of your lesson time and so that your lesson can be conveniently rescheduled.

Applied Instruction-MUP 119/319

Two semester Hours Credit, one hour instruction per week plus one hour studio class or convocation weekly. Students are expected to practice assigned materials individually that may include etudes, exercises, daily routines, ensemble music, and/or solos two hours daily, six days per week for a total of twelve hours of outside preparation each week for fifteen weeks. Students are also expected to attend or perform in required recitals, upper levels, and/or juries which is typically an additional five to ten hour time requirement during the fifteen week semester.

Required materials

- Mini or micro SD card (at least 8 gig) to record your lesson.
- A metronome and a tuner (mobile apps are acceptable).
- Notebook or notepad.
- Rosin, mute, etc.
- Proper care of your instrument and bow: rehairs, strings, etc. If you use a school instrument, it is your responsibility to notify me or Dr. Grabowski about any repairs that need to be done.

- A desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone to access the live-streaming lectures, assignments,
exams and projects. A desktop or laptop is preferred because the screen’s size and how browsers work with this set up.

- Access to broadband, especially to stream the lectures. If you are on campus, the SFA network works fine.
- Zoom (videoconferencing software) [https://sfasu.zoom.us/](https://sfasu.zoom.us/)

**Grading procedures**

Grading is based on overall progress and preparedness, not on talent. Your final grade at the end of the semester will be based on the following formula:

1. **Average of Lesson Grades: 80%**
   
   *your weekly grade will be based on preparation of assignments. Here is the significance of letter grades for weekly lessons:
   
   - A: thorough preparation of all assignments
   - B: preparation of all assignments but with some aspects not thoroughly learned
   - C: some assignments not prepared
   - D: student is totally unprepared
   - F: unexcused absence

2. **Performance in final string jury (if applicable): 20%** *non-majors will not have a jury, unless unable to perform in String Studio Recital). You will perform a solo and one or two orchestral standard excerpts.

Grading of the applied lesson is highly subjective by nature. Primary factors upon which you will be graded are: lesson preparation; attitude; musical improvement; studio participation and material completed. A majority of the weight of the semester grade will be based on lesson preparation and musical growth. Your progress will be judged on the basis of growth, improvement in basic musical skills, completion of assigned materials and work on repertoire, scales and etudes as assigned. You are also expected to actively participate in studio class. This is a “lab” for the applied lesson. You will perform several times in studio class during the semester.

*Minimum daily individual practice time should equal the number of credit hours you receive for the applied lesson.*

**Program Learning Outcomes**

The student will demonstrate the following:

- Knowledge of applicable solo and technical materials.
- Fundamentals of pedagogy as it pertains to applied study ability to prepare and perform a solo at a high level
- Ability to prepare and perform solo repertoire.
Course Objectives

Applied lessons will be structured to introduce you to the study materials and solo literature for the Double bass. Emphasis will be on teaching the fundamentals of performance and pedagogy. You will cover the following fundamentals:

1. Scales and arpeggios

2. Technical studies and etudes as assigned, focusing on specific areas:
   - Positions and shifting
   - Bowing styles: detache, martele, staccato, spiccato, ricochet, sautille.
   - Agility and strength of left hand
   - Development of sound- vibrato and dynamic control

3. Standard Repertoire from all periods of music:
   - Musicianship (appropriate stylistic approach to each piece)
   - Beauty of tone
   - Accuracy in rhythm
   - Accuracy in intonation
   - Technique

3. Learning to approach your instrument in a way that is as relaxed and tension –free as possible, reducing the risk of injury.

Juries

Juries are generally conducted on at the beginning of final exam week. You will play for the string faculty and receive commentary from each. Take the jury seriously. Music Majors are required to perform a jury each semester.

Lesson Expectations

Be on time, be warmed-up (if at all possible) and ready to work. In order for the lesson to be successful, it is your responsibility to be prepared. Accordingly, excuses such as these will not be tolerated:

- I did not have time to practice. (MAKE TIME…THIS IS A CLASS!!!)
- I was involved with social/service organizations.
- I played too much in orchestra.
- I had to work. (SO DO I!)
- I left my music at home.

STUDIO RECITAL PREPARATION

Your requirements are as follows:

- Begin to prepare your piece immediately after assigned
• Meet with your accompanist at least two weeks prior to the recital
• Play with the accompanist for me at least seven days prior to the recital.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.
• **On-campus Resources:**
  o SFA Counseling Service [www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)
    Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401
  o SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic [www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
    Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

• **Crisis Resources:**
  o Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
  o Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
  o Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741