Brass Methods Course Syllabus (Horn)

MUSI 3131.001, Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrea Denis  
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**Office:** Music Bldg Room 256  
**Office Hours:** By appointment only  
**Department:** School of Music  
**Class Meeting Time and Place:** Choir Room (Room M125); Monday/Wednesday 11:00-11:50AM

Course Description (MUSI 3131; Brass Class I):
Introductory training in playing trumpet and horn.

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours:
1 semester hour credit; 2 hours lab/contact hours per week. (Prerequisite: MUTC 1211).

Program Learning Outcomes:
There are no specific program learning outcomes addressed in this course.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:
There are no specific general education core curriculum objectives in this course. This course is not a general education core curriculum course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The trumpet and horn methods course (MUSI 3131.001 and MUSI 3131.002) at Stephen F. Austin State University is an essential part of the requirements for music education. The goals and objectives of the course are:

1. To gather knowledge, concepts and ideas regarding the teaching of all instruments in the high brass family: trumpet and horn.
2. To gain a working knowledge and practice regarding the performance of each instrument. This includes understanding and performance of beginning-level solos.
3. To provide all members of the class, especially those majoring in music education or music performance, a firm foundation in the instruction of a beginning high brass class (homogenous or heterogenous) in the public schools.
4. To provide quality musical experiences to every member of the class on a regular basis.

*The methods classes are among the most vital in the curriculum; be serious, curious and studious.*

Required Text and Materials:
**Reference materials will be provided in class.** You are expected to put the text in a binder and show it to me the last week of class. Failure to do so will result in a letter grade lower final grade.

Grading Policy & Course Requirements:
Each student’s grade will be based on the preparation of the daily assignments, attendance, tests, performance evaluations, and reading assigned text prior to the beginning of each class. The final grade will be determined by the following:

- 45% Written, Playing, Teaching Exams (15% each)
- 30% Daily assignments and quizzes (15% each)
- 15% Binder
- 10% Daily Attendance

Grades may be affected by attendance or turning in late work, which is described below.

Grading Scale:  
A 90 – 100% of Total Points  
B 80 – 89% of Total Points
C 70 – 79% of Total Points
D 60 – 69% of Total Points
F Below 69% of Total Points

Course Calendar:
To be determined by the speed of the class while learning horn, but will generally follow this model. Horn section 1 will continue through the first 8 weeks of the course, and horn section 2 will continue for the remainder of the semester after the instrument switch.

Week 1: Discuss Syllabus and course expectations; Begin setting up how to play horn
Week 2: Continue setting up horn/play; Breathing Article/Quiz
Week 3: Playing test 1; Harmonic Series/Fingerings-how it all works
Week 4: Continue Harmonic Series/Fingerings-how it all works; Fingering Quiz; Playing Test 2- anchor point and C-G chromatic; What do all my valves and slides do? How to tune a horn;
Week 5: Extended Playing techniques and mutes; Stopped Horn
Week 6: Common Horn Problems and how to fix them; Playing Test 3
Week 7: Beginner year Breakdown; Projects Presented; Schedule teaching final
Week 8: Projects Presented to Class; Written final; Teaching final

Attendance Policy:
It is expected that students attend class. Students must submit an absence request at least one week in advance, except for emergencies, by e-mailing the instructor. In the event of an absence, the student should arrange for a meeting with the instructor to not only discuss the absence, but to see what information was missed as well.

Number of Unexcused Absences
2 = no penalty
3 = 10 points off of your final grade
4 = 20 points off of your final grade
5 = 30 points off of your final grade
6 = 40 points off of your final grade

Tardiness
If you are tardy to class, whether that be in person or via Zoom, it will affect your daily attendance grade. 2 Tardies = 1 unexcused absence

Regarding excuses absences: An excused absence is an absence discusses and/or arranged with the instructor prior to the class meeting. As well, any sickness or family emergency will be excused as long as documentation is provided and communication is present. Final determination of whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused is completely left up to the instructor.

*There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the above information. If you fail to show up to class, you will fail this course.

Late Policy:
Students are expected to turn in assignments when they are due at the beginning of class. Late work will be accepted with a penalty of ten points for each class day that it is late. Late work that is turned in on a non-class day must be given to the instructor in person or be signed and dated by an office attendant and placed in the instructor’s box.

Academic Integrity (4.1)
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.
Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
• Food Pantry
• Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741