

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-2005

MUS 128.01: Upper Brass Methods

Kevin D. Griggs

University of Montana - Missoula, kevin.griggs@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Griggs, Kevin D., "MUS 128.01: Upper Brass Methods" (2005). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 10134.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/10134>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Upper Brass Methods

MUS 128 – CRN#70540

Fall 2005
Music Building Room 1
Tuesday & Thursday 8:10 – 9:00 a.m.

Instructor: *Dr. Kevin Griggs* kevin.griggs@umontana.edu 406-243-2959
Office Hours: Music Building Room 3 - by appointment

Grading: 90% & up = A 80% to 89% = B 70% to 79% = C
 60% to 69% = D 59% & below = F

I. Goal: Students will develop a working knowledge and understanding of brass instruments in the upper brass family, specifically the trumpet and horn, and become proficient in individual performance and pedagogical techniques for these instruments.

II. Course Aims and Objectives:

Aims: This course presents an opportunity for students to learn the history, commonalities, and basic playing techniques for upper brass instruments. Students should be able to perform at a prescribed level on each instrument and possess the skills necessary to teach a new musician how to play these instruments.

Specific Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Develop and demonstrate a characteristic, fundamental tone and basic technical proficiency, including embouchure, tongueing, posture, etc., on the trumpet and horn through individual practice and performance on the instruments.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the correct fingerings on the trumpet and horn.
3. Exhibit a correct understanding of the proper transposition for each of these instruments.
4. Possess an understanding of the history and/or development of upper brass instruments.
5. Show a knowledge of the commonalities in the brass family and an ability to teach basic technique, including problem solving in all areas of brass playing, to beginning students.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of correct placement of brass instruments within an ensemble and any special considerations that must be made.
7. Possess a working knowledge and list of resources of appropriate brass repertoire, equipment, and recordings.

III. Format and Procedures:

Classroom time will be devoted to lectures, individual playing (both practice and evaluation), demonstrations, and quizzes/examinations. Students are expected to do the majority of their preparation outside of class time. This includes readings from the required text, individual practice time on the instruments, and completion of assignments. Class time will be used for presentation of new material, testing, assistance with individual problems, and discussion of relevant information.

IV. Assumptions

As music majors, I expect all students to possess an extensive knowledge of music fundamentals such as: Note names and values, rhythm, meter, musical terms, tempo, and key signatures, to name a few. I understand that students will enter this class with varying levels of knowledge about brass instruments but I expect an honest effort by each student to master the material presented.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Attendance for this class is required in order to receive a passing grade. Following the 3rd unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered one (1) letter and drop another letter grade for every 3rd unexcused absence thereafter. Two (2) tardies will be counted the same as an unexcused absence.

2. Instruments: Trumpet (or Cornet) and Horn – To be arranged.

3. Course readings:

Required text: *A Complete Guide to Brass: Instruments and Pedagogy*, second edition, by Scott Whitener, published by Schirmer Books. This text should be available in the bookstore at the University Center.

4. Assignments

Various assignments will be given during the semester which will be drawn from class discussions, lectures, readings, or handouts. Assignments may also include listening to be done outside of class time.

5. Beginning band instrument method books. (to be provided by instructor)

6. Paper and pen for class notes and a binder for organization of class materials.

V. Grading Procedures:

Grades will be determined using the following assessments:

Instrument proficiency	40%
Assignments	20%
Tests/Quizzes	30%
Participation	10%

VI. Academic Integrity

This class will follow the standards found in The University of Montana Code of Conduct. Please refer to this document for any questions or concerns.

Tentative Course Schedule

Dates	Readings/Topics	Playing/Written Assignments
August 30	Syllabus and course expectations. Basics	Begin work on long tones and 7 fingerings, posture, etc.
September 1	Chapter 1 – How Brass Instruments Work.	Long Tones, Hand Position, Posture, 7 Fingerings
September 6	Chapter 10 – Tone Production	Lip Slurs, Chromatic Scale
September 8	Chapter 11 – Playing Position	Method book assignment, Instrument Fingerings
September 13	Chapter 12 – Getting Started	Method book assignment, Bb Major Scale.
September 15	Breathing & Air Usage	Method book assignment
September 20	Listening – Solo Trumpet	Begin etude. Cont. method book.
September 22	Tongue Usage.	Etude, Method Book, F Major Scale
September 27	Listening – Solo Horn	Tongue Exercises, Etude, Method
September 29	Transpositions – Bb & F	Etude, Method, Transpositions
October 4	Instrument Ranges	Etude, Method
October 6	Chapter 3 or 4 depending on the instrument you have.	Etude, Method, Note Tendencies
October 11	Listening - Orchestra	Prepare for Mid-Term
October 13	<i>Live Instruction</i>	<i>Teach 5th or 6th graders</i>
October 18	Review for the Mid-Term	Prepare the Mid-Term
October 20	Mid-Term Exam. Written and Playing.	During Class time. Switch Instruments.
October 25	Questions/General Review	Begin work on long tones and 7 fingerings, posture, etc.
October 27	Chapter 2 – Anatomy of the Mouthpiece	Long Tones, Hand Position, Posture, 7 Fingerings
November 1	Listening – Brass Ensemble	Lip Slurs, Chromatic Scale
November 3	Performance Practice	Method book assignment, Instrument Fingerings
November 8	Chapter 3 or 4 depending on the instrument you have.	Method book assignment, Bb Major Scale.
November 10	Listening - Band	Begin etude. Cont. method book.
November 15	Chapter 8 – Other Brass	Etude, Method Book, F Major Scale
November 17	Troubleshooting	Tongue Exercises, Etude, Method
November 22	Chapter 13 - Instrument Care	Etude, Method, Note Tendencies
November 24	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	<i>No Class</i>
November 29	Listening – Marching Band	Etude, Method
December 1	<i>Live Instruction</i>	<i>Teach 5th or 6th graders</i>
December 6	Chapter 14 – Notes for Conductors	Prepare for Final Exam
December 8	Review for Final Exam	Prepare for Final Exam
December 14	Final Exam. Written and Playing	10:10am - 12:10pm in Music Rm 1