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### MUSE 274.01: Techniques - Upper Brass

Kevin D. Griggs

University of Montana, Missoula, [kevin.griggs@umontana.edu](mailto:kevin.griggs@umontana.edu)

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# Upper Brass Methods

MUSE 274 – CRN#70120

Fall 2022 | Music Building Room 1 | Tuesday & Thursday | 8:00 – 8:50 a.m.

Instructor: *Dr. Kevin Griggs*    [kevin.griggs@umontana.edu](mailto:kevin.griggs@umontana.edu)    406-370-8730  
Office Hours: Music Building Room 3 - by appointment

**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. The main focus is to prepare music education students. 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, tonguing, 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 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 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. Communication

When outside of class communication is necessary, I will use the Cyberbear or Moodle class email list to send messages. This will send a message to your university email account. If you do not check this account regularly, you can forward messages to your private email account.

## VI. Course Requirements:

1. Attendance for this class is required in order to receive a passing grade. Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered one (1) letter and drop another letter grade for every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: *Brass Techniques and Pedagogy*, by Brian Weidner, available on Moodle.
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. Practice Time  
You should plan to spend consistent daily practice time on your assigned instrument. Plan to spend a minimum of 15 minutes per day initially as your embouchure develops, increasing to 30 minutes or more per day. **Do not attempt to cram for a playing exam by doing all your practicing the night before the test. It takes weeks for the tissues of your embouchure to develop and it is impossible to replicate that with one long practice session.**
6. Beginning band instrument method books. (to be provided by instructor)
7. Paper and pen for class notes and a binder for organization of class materials.

## VII. Grading Procedures:

Grades will be determined using the following assessments:

Instrument proficiency	30%	
Assignments	20%	
Tests/Quizzes	30%	<i>Mid-term–Oct. 18 &amp; Final–Dec. 14, 10:10-12:10</i>
Teaching/Field Experience	10%	
Participation	10%	

## VIII. Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <https://www.umt.edu/safety/policies/default.php>

## IX. Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

## Tentative Course Schedule

Dates	Readings/Topics	Playing/Written Assignments
<b>August 30</b>	Syllabus and Chapter 4 – Brass Acoustics	Begin work on long tones and 7 fingerings, posture, etc.
<b>September 1</b>	Chapter 2 – Posture, Breathing, Embouchure	Long Tones, Hand Position, Posture, 7 Fingerings
<b>September 6</b>	Chapter 3 – Tone Production (MP)	Lip Slurs, Chromatic Scale
<b>September 8</b>	Chapter 5 – Tone Production (Inst.)	Method book assignment #25, Instrument Fingerings
<b>September 13</b>	Breathing & Air Usage	Bb Major Scale.
<b>September 15</b>	Chapter 7 - Articulation	Method book assignment #53A
<b>September 20</b>	Troubleshooting	Begin etude. Cont. method book.
<b>September 22</b>	Troubleshooting	Etude practice
<b>September 27</b>	Chapter 6 - Intonation	Tongue Exercises, Etude, Method Book Assmt. #132,
<b>September 29</b>	Starting a new class	Etude, Method, Transpositions
<b>October 4</b>	Transpositions – Bb & F	Etude, Method Book, Fundamentals
<b>October 6</b>	Chapter 10 or 11 depending on the instrument you have.	Etude, Method, Note Tendencies
<b>October 11</b>	Instrument Purchasing	Method Book Assmt. #166
<b>October 13</b>	Mid-Term Review	Prepare for Mid-Term
<b>October 18</b>	<b>MID-TERM EXAM.</b> Written and Playing.	Switch Instruments
<b>October 20</b>	<b><i>MMEA Convention</i></b>	<b><i>No Class</i></b>
<b>October 25</b>	Characteristic Tone	Begin work on long tones and 7 fingerings, posture, etc.
<b>October 27</b>	Anatomy of the Mouthpiece	Method Book Assmt. #39
<b>November 1</b>	Performance Practice/Advanced Tech.	Lip Slurs, Bb Major Scale.
<b>November 3</b>	Chapter 10 or 11 depending on the instrument you have.	Method book assignment #62,
<b>November 8</b>	Chapter 8 - Instrument Care/Repair	Tongue exercises
<b>November 10</b>	Chapter 1 - History of upper brass	Begin etude. Cont. method book.
<b>November 15</b>	Other Upper Brass Instruments	Etude, Method Book Assmt. #106, Chromatic Scale
<b>November 17</b>	Instrument Ranges	Tongue Exercises, Etude, Method
<b>November 22</b>	Method Book Instruction	Etude, Method, Note Tendencies
<b>November 24</b>	<b><i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i></b>	<b><i>No Class</i></b>
<b>November 29</b>	Listening – Brass Ensemble	Etude, Method Book Assmt. #179
<b>December 1</b>	Mutes and other effects	Etude, Lip Slurs, Reading
<b>December 6</b>	Chapter 14 – Notes for Conductors	Prepare for Final Exam
<b>December 8</b>	Review for Final Exam	Prepare for Final Exam
<b>December 14</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	10:10am - 12:10pm in Room 1

This schedule is subject to change. Please refer to it as a general guide for class lectures.