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MUSE 274.01: Techniques - Upper Brass Methods

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University of Montana
School of Music
Upper Brass Methods
MUSE 274 – CRN#70383

Fall 2014 Music Building Room 1 Tuesday & Thursday 8:10 – 9:00 a.m.

Instructor: *Dr. Kevin Griggs* 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. 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 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. 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 2nd unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered one (1) letter and drop another letter grade for every 2nd 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 Technique*, third edition, by Scott Whitener, published by Schirmer Books. (ISBN 978-0534509880)

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. 14 & Final–Dec. 9 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 http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.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
August 26	Syllabus and course expectations. Basics	Begin work on long tones and 7 fingerings, posture, etc.
August 28	Chapter 1 – How Brass Instruments Work.	Long Tones, Hand Position, Posture, 7 Fingerings
September 2	Chapter 10 – Tone Production	Lip Slurs, Chromatic Scale
September 4	Chapter 11 – Playing Position	Method book assignment #25, Instrument Fingerings
September 9	Tongue Usage	Bb Major Scale.
September 11	Breathing & Air Usage	Method book assignment #53A
September 16	Chapter 12 – Getting Started	Begin etude. Cont. method book.
September 18	Listening – Solo Trumpet/Tuning	Etude, F Major Scale
September 23	Troubleshooting	Tongue Exercises, Etude, Method Book Assmt. #132,
September 25	Listening – Solo Horn/Centering	Etude, Method, Transpositions
September 30	Transpositions – Bb & F	Etude,
October 2	Chapter 3 or 4 depending on the instrument you have.	Etude, Method, Note Tendencies
October 7	Instrument purchasing	Prepare for Mid-Term, Method Book Assmt. #166
October 9	Mid-Term Review	Mid-Term Exam
October 14	MID-TERM EXAM. Written and Playing.	Switch Instruments.
October 16	<i>MMEA Convention</i>	<i>No Class</i>
October 21	Characteristic Tone	Begin work on long tones and 7 fingerings, posture, etc.
October 23	Chapter 2 – Anatomy of the Mouthpiece	Method Book Assmt. #39
October 29	Performance Practice	Lip Slurs, Bb Major Scale.
October 30	Chapter 3 or 4 depending on the instrument you have.	Method book assignment #62,
November 4	<i>Orchestra Festival/Election Day</i>	<i>No Class</i>
November 6	Listening - Band	Begin etude. Cont. method book.
November 11	Chapter 8 – Other Brass	Etude, Method Book Assmt. #106, Chromatic Scale
November 13	Instrument Ranges	Tongue Exercises, Etude, Method
November 18	Chapter 13 - Instrument Care	Etude, Method, Note Tendencies
November 20	Listening – Brass Ensemble	
November 25	Mutes and other effects	Etude, Method Book Assmt. #179
November 27	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	<i>No Class</i>
December 2	Chapter 14 – Notes for Conductors	Prepare for Final Exam
December 4	Review for Final Exam	Prepare for Final Exam
December 9	FINAL EXAM	10:10am - 12:10pm in Music Rm 1

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