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MUS 128.01: Upper Brass Class

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Upper Brass Class

Music 128 - CRN # 70540

Tuesday & Thursday, 8:10 - 9:00 a.m.

Music Building Room #1

Autumn Semester 2003

Dr. Thomas Cook, Instructor

Office: Room #109 - Phone 243-4355

Email: tcCook@selway.umt.edu

Goal:

The goal of this course is for each student to develop a knowledge and understanding of both the skills and techniques necessary for performance on the fundamental instruments (trumpet & horn) of the upper brass family. To this end, achievement of adequate individual performance competencies and attainment of information regarding these instruments will be required.

Expectations:

By the end of the semester, students who achieve success in this course will:

1. develop and demonstrate a characteristic, fundamental tone and basic technical proficiency on the trumpet and horn, with particular emphasis on those upper brass instruments with which there has been limited or no previous experience,
2. demonstrate mastery of correct fingerings for instruments in the upper brass family,
3. exhibit a practical understanding of each instrument under review and an overall knowledge of fundamental brass playing, commonalities between instruments, and instrument care and maintenance,
4. display a knowledge of pedagogy related to upper brass instruments and be capable of demonstrating instructional abilities through methods of detection and problem solving, and
5. possess a working knowledge of appropriate upper brass repertoire and equipment.

Methods:

In order to achieve these expectations, classroom time will be devoted to collective and individual playing; lectures, discussions, and demonstrations; and both written and playing quizzes and examinations. Between class sessions, students will be expected to practice the assigned instrument on a daily basis, read and study designated materials within the time frames announced, and prepare for examinations. Punctual and consistent attendance is essential, with late arrivals and absences detrimental to the student's progress and final grade. At the conclusion of the course, each student should anticipate collection of a legible, well organized, and useful compilation of course materials for potential use as a future resource.

Materials:

Required items for this course include:

1. Instruments: Trumpet (or Cornet) and Horn - to be arranged
2. Text: A Complete Guide to Brass: Instruments and Pedagogy (Second Edition), by Scott Whitener, published by Schirmer Books - available from The Bookstore at the University Center

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3. Beginning band instrument methods books, for brass instruments, selected from a number of available series - to be furnished
4. Paper and pen/pencil for classroom notes
5. A binder for collection and organization of course materials

Attendance:

- Following a third un-excused absence, the final grade for this course will be dropped one full letter (A to B, B to C, etc).
- Following a sixth un-excused absence, that grade will be dropped yet another full level.
- 2 un-excused tardies will equal 1 unexcused absence.

Assessment:

Attitude & Classroom Participation	10%	
Playing Tests		40%
Mid-Term Written Exam	25%	
Final Written Exam	25%	