MUS – 164: Low Brass Methods

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mike Guzman, ABD
Office Location:	Music Building Room 194
Office Hours:	By appointment
University Email Address:	Mike.Guzman@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**:**	Email
Communication Response Time:	24 Hours / 48 on weekend

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: A Complete Guide to Brass 3rd Edition: Scott Whitener.

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

1- As supplied by instructor.
2- Instruments will be assigned during the first-class meeting, and during each meeting in which students "switch" instruments.
3- Assigned instrument and corresponding mouthpiece must be brought to each class meeting.
4- Each student will be assigned a beginning band method book to use, which must be brought to each class meeting.
5- Large 3 ring binder, dividers, paper and writing utensil.

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce future Music Educators to the history, execution, and instruction of the trombone, euphonium, and tuba. While the focus of class meetings will be on playing, readings and study outside of class will expose students to the history, literature, prominent performers, equipment, and other relevant issues pertaining to each instrument. Various beginning band methods will be used for class instruction and playing assignments to gain familiarity with materials available for use in their future programs.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Student Learning Outcomes:

1- Develop fundamental playing ability on trombone, euphonium, and tuba at least equal to that of an average beginning student on each instrument.
2- Develop sufficient pedagogical knowledge and skills necessary for teaching low brass instruments in elementary and secondary schools.
3- Study and evaluate a variety of instructional materials available to beginning band directors, to make informed decisions regarding materials for their future programs.
4- Gain exposure to other resources such as books and recordings that can aid in teaching.
5- Develop a basic knowledge of various makes and models of low brass instruments and mouthpieces, so that they can make informed choices when choosing equipment for students.

Instructional Methods

This course will be divided into three units of study, with students playing a different instrument during each unit. * Lectures, class discussions, assigned readings, and study outside of class will correspond to the instrument being played at a given time, although general topics also will be covered. Three different beginning band method books will be used for playing labs and assignments during the semester. This will expose students to the different instructional materials available to band and orchestra directors, thus allowing them to make an informed choice of band methods when out in the "real world."

(*Students whose major instrument is trombone, euphonium, or tuba will spend additional time on one of the other two instruments rather than playing their primary instruments in class. They will still be required to take the written tests for their primary instruments.)

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1- Attendance at each class meeting is essential to mastering required performance and pedagogical skills. For a pre-planned absence to be deemed excused, the student must inform the instructor in advance of the planned absence, and the instructor must approve of the reason for the absence. This rule, of course, does not apply to immediate emergency situations such as sudden illness or injury, car trouble, or death in the immediate family, although it is still desirable that the instructor be contacted in advance, if possible. A doctor's note or other verification may be required. All other absences will be deemed unexcused. Work missed due to an excused absence can be made up; however, pre-assigned work must be turned in to the instructor prior to the missed class if the absence is planned. Work missed due to absences deemed unexcused cannot be made up; pre-assigned work due on the missed date will be accepted, but with a penalty to the student's grade. Students with two (2) unexcused absences will have their final grades lowered by one (1) letter. Students with four (4) unexcused absences will have their final grades lowered by two (2) letter grades. The same ratio will be used for subsequent absences.

2- Students arriving late to class will have their tardies deemed excused if the instructor is informed in advance, or if the student has a note or promise of a note from a doctor, another instructor, or other responsible party. All other tardies will be deemed unexcused. **In addition, two unexcused tardies will be considered equal to one unexcused absence.** See the attendance policy above for penalties for unexcused absences/tardies. Policies regarding work missed due to tardies are the same as those listed above for absences.
3- Students are responsible for practicing their assigned instruments daily. Although the amount of time students can devote to these instruments may vary from day to day, students are expected to practice a minimum of three hours weekly. Students are also responsible for assigned readings and/or short writing assignments and, of course, for adequate preparation for written tests and quizzes.
4- The instruments used in this course are either University property or on loan to the University. Students will be required to complete paperwork accepting responsibility for the instruments and materials assigned to them. All loaned materials are to be treated with the utmost care. Loss, destruction, or mutilation of these materials will result in a grade of Incomplete until appropriate restitution is made, unless the student can present a valid reason that he or she should not be thus held responsible.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Playing Tests	40%
Preparation / Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL:	100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this

legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for

students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit **www.tamuc.edu/counsel**

AI Use in Courses

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors 'guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.
In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Every attempt will be made to stay on schedule; however, the schedule is subject to change by the instructor as needed.

January 2024:

Tuesday	Thursday
9	**11 (General 1)** First Day of Class / Introduction
16 (General 2) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Historical sketch 3-Assign instruments	**18 (General 3)** 1-Reading / Discussion. 2-Selecting students / instrument selection for Trombone 3-Typs of Trombones
23 (Trombone 1) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Mouthpieces 3-Parts of the Trombone 4-Playing	**25 (Trombone 2)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Assembly / Care 3-Holding / Posture 4-Playing
30 (Trombone 3) 1-Embrocure 2-Buzzing 3-Harmonic series 4-Playing	

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February 2024:

Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 (Trombone 4) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Articulation 3-Intonation / Tuning / Fabrizio 4-Playing	**2**
6 (Trombone 5) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Mutes 3-Marching Band 4-Playing	**8 (Trombone 6)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-? / Exam 3-Playing	**9**
13 (Trombone 7) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-? / Exam 3-Playing	**15 (Trombone 8)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Trombone written test 3-Playing	**16** Trombone Playing Test due
20 1-Euphonium sign out 2-Instruent selection	**22** 1-Instruents selection 2- ? / Exam?	**23**
27 (Euphonium 1) 1- Reading / Discussion 2-Mouthpieces 3-Parts of the Euphonium 4-Playing	**29(Euphonium 2)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Assembly / Care 3-Holding / Posture 4-Playing	

March 2024:

Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
5 (Euphonium 3) 1-Embrocure 2-Buzzing 3-Harmonic series 4-Playing	**7 (Euphonium 4)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Articulation 3-Intonation / Tuning / Fabrizio 4-Playing	**8**
12 Spring Break	**14** Spring Break	**15** Spring Break
19 (Euphonium 5) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Mutes 3-Marching Band 4-Playing	**21 (Euphonium 6)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-? / Exam 3-Playing	**22**
26 (Euphonium 7) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-? / Exam 3-Playing	**28 (Euphonium 8)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Euphonium written test 3-Playing	**29** Euphonium playing test due.

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April 2024:

Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
2 (Tuba 1) Reading / Discussion 2-Mouthpieces 3-Parts of the Tuba 4-Playing	**4 (Tuba 2)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Assembly / Care 3-Holding / Posture 4-Playing	**5**
9 (Tuba 3) 1-Embrocure 2-Buzzing 3-Harmonic series 4-Playing	**11 (Tuba 4)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Articulation 3-Intonation / Tuning / Fabrizio 4-Playing	**12**
16 (Tuba 5) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Mutes 3-Marching Band 4-Playing	**18 (Tuba 6)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-? / Exam 3-Playing	**19**
23 (Tuba 7) 1-Reading / Discussion 2-? / Exam 3-Playing	**25 (Tuba 8)** 1-Reading / Discussion 2-Tuba written test 3-Playing	**26** Tuba Playing test due.
30 TBD		

May 2024:

Tuesday	Thursday
7 Final for 8:00am Class	**9 Final for 9:30am Class**

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