



**MUS 149-216, 151-216, 152-216, 351-216, 352-216, 352-214, 551-216, 552-216, 552-214**

**Applied Saxophone Course Syllabus: Fall 2024**

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Professor: Professor Mike Korson  
Office location: Music Building 218  
Office Hours: as posted and by appointment  
Office Phone: 903.886.5302  
University Email Address: Michael.Korson@tamuc.edu

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Texts & Materials:**

ALL Students are required to have a metronome (or metronome app) for technical repetition/rhythmic improvement and an electronic tuner (or tuner app) to improve intonation. This is highly recommended for all students taking saxophone lessons but required of majors. Texts and music for the course will vary depending on the student's level of proficiency. Students are expected to purchase a small amount of music each semester as well as have 3-4 high quality reeds in playable condition, quality reed holder, saxophone and sax accessories in working condition, notebook and reed tools at each lesson.

## **GENERAL AREAS OF STUDY**

Tone Production, Breathing, Intonation, Articulation, Rhythm, Technique, Embouchure, Selecting and Adjusting reeds, Practice Techniques, Pedagogy, and Jazz Studies (including improvisation).

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Demonstrate the basics of musical performance with special attention to rhythm, tone quality, range, musical phrasing, intonation, and style
2. Demonstrate the ability to perform music from different stylistic periods
3. Demonstrate the ability to perform music in varied key signatures, keys, and meter signatures
4. Demonstrate the ability to perform all major and minor scales in the designated form

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Scales

Major, minor (natural, harmonic, melodic), and chromatic

Additional scale/mode studies include:

- Dorian
- Phrygian
- Lydian
- Mixolydian
- Locrian
- Whole tone
- Diminished

Arpeggios and scales in thirds and fourths and additional scales/arpeggio patterns will also be included under scale studies.

### Saxophone Majors

Saxophone majors are required to perform on woodwind juries or degreed recitals each semester of study. Absence or tardiness from a jury/recital will negatively affect your grade.

Majors are also required to perform on at least one public recital or studio class performance each semester as well as attend all studio classes and on-campus saxophone recitals (faculty, student, and guest artist recitals/master classes).

Scheduling of ALL required student degreed recitals & hearings will be completed **prior to September 15<sup>th</sup>, or the recital will be cancelled!**

The acquisition of a pianist for your final jury performance (if needed) will be required **prior to November 15<sup>th</sup> or your jury may result in a grade of zero!**

Note: All Jr., Sr. & Graduate Performance Majors are required to audition for the Concerto competition (preliminary round) during their juries in the Fall semester.

### Instructional Methods

The primary mode of instruction for Applied Saxophone is the weekly, face-to-face lesson. In the lesson, emphasis is placed on the technical and musical development of the student through a series of etudes, patterns and literature.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the weekly lesson, **students are expected to practice daily in order to progress towards their musical goals.** Active listening to related musical genres should also be a daily part of your practice routine.

## 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

## ASSESSMENTS

Grading assessment is based on attendance, preparation, progress, and performance of study materials to include repertoire works, etudes, scale/mode studies and any other fundamental exercises as assigned by the professor.

You will be assigned a weekly grade in lessons (60%) based on the above criteria and along with your jury grade (30%) and scale/arpeggio midterm (10%) will average into your final grade in the course. 70% weekly lesson grade & 30% jury grade will be the grading percentages for non-majors.

**Note: Please be warmed up before your lesson so we can make the best use of your lesson time.**

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## 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](mailto: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>

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Attendance

Students should notify the instructor 24 hours in advance if they will be absent from a lesson or studio class. Lessons that have not been properly canceled in advance are considered unexcused absences. There will be no rescheduling of unexcused absences. I understand that emergencies do arise, but the student should be able to provide documentation in most cases.

**One unexcused absence will be allowed before the course grade is affected.** Each unexcused absence after that will result in a grade of zero for the weekly lesson missed. Every unexcused absence after the second will result in a 10% reduction of the overall letter grade. Tardiness will be recorded and will negatively affect your grade. **If you are more than 15 minutes late without notice it will count as an unexcused absence.** Unexcused absences and tardiness from weekly studio classes will negatively affect your grade.

Lessons that have to be postponed by the instructor will be rescheduled.

### 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.

## 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](#).

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 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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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 Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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 on the basis of 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **CALENDAR**

### **Important Saxophone dates:**

Studio class recital - Date/Time TBA (required attendance for all majors)

Saxophone Ensemble – Dec. 8/7pm Holiday Gala (Dress rehearsal on Dec 7)

