



SCHOOL OF  
**Music**

MUS – 161 – 01/02E  
**Clarinet and Saxophone Methods**  
Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

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## Instructor Information

Instructor:	Prof. Tyler Tashdjian (Tash)
Classroom Location:	Classroom 156
Office Location:	Classroom 156 or Reed Room
Office Hours:	Appointment only
Office Phone:	(903) 886-5303
University E-mail:	Tyler.Tashdjian@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	University email
Communication Response Time:	Within 24 hours

## Course Information

### Course Description

#### MUS 161 - Clarinet and Saxophone Methods

Instrumental Methods Class. Designed to provide functional performance abilities and beginning and intermediate pedagogy in clarinet and saxophone.

(2025-26 Undergraduate Course Catalog)

### Course Expectations

- Preparation to succeed, demonstrate, understand, participate, and contribute to class culture.
- Participate in discussions, instructional sessions, demonstrations, and performances.
- Practicing and preparation outside of the classroom.
- Take quizzes and exams on the days they are offered and submit assignments on their due dates.
- Professionalism – practice using the language, terminology, behavior, and communication of a future educator you are preparing to become.
  - This includes writing in complete sentences, using the subject line in an email, starting with a salutation, writing the body of the email clearly and concisely using proper grammar, and an appropriate closing.
- Part of the requirements for this class is to have all listed supplies. The materials for this class are chosen and administered with the ultimate success of the students in mind.

## Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- Understand the sequencing of teaching a woodwind instrument and other musical elements to a beginning band student.
- Know reasonable expectations for a beginning woodwind student.
- Know instrument tuning tendencies and practical solutions for each woodwind instrument.
- Know the inherent technical problems for each woodwind instrument.
- Teach and demonstrate correct posture and hand position for each woodwind instrument.
- Teach and demonstrate correct breathing for a wind instrument.
- Teach and demonstrate correct assembly and maintenance of each woodwind instrument.
- Teach and model the correct embouchure for each woodwind instrument.
- Teach and model a characteristic sound for each woodwind instrument.
- Teach and model correct articulation for each woodwind instrument.
- Teach and demonstrate the correct fingerings for the practical range of the woodwind instruments.
- Be able to diagnose typical problems that may occur while a beginning band student learns a woodwind instrument both visually and aurally.
- Have a working knowledge of how to develop individual musicians past the beginner year.
- Have a working knowledge of brands of instruments, reed brands & strengths, mouthpieces, and other equipment used in a band setting.

## Required Textbook

There will not be a required purchase of a textbook. Students will maintain the files given by the instructor.

*#tashmethods, A modern way to teach beginning woodwinds.* The instructor for East Texas A&M University's woodwind methods created this course packet. All students will be required to maintain and add to the packet throughout the course as a personal method to the pedagogy of that woodwind instrument.

## Recommended Textbook

Wilson, Hamilton, Dubois, Andrus, Mann, Levinsky; *Teaching Woodwinds: A Guide for Students and Teachers*, Second Edition. Published by Mountain Peak Music.

PDF or hard copy is acceptable.

Link for purchase: <https://www.mountainpeakmusic.com/teaching-woodwinds-3/>

- Includes a companion website.

## Required Course Materials

Appropriate instrument with case (clarinet and saxophone), cleaning swab, cork grease, and 2-4 reeds per instrument that will be secured in a locker when not in use.

- The following are the only reed brands that should be used in the course (reasons will be given during instruction):
  - Vandoren Traditional (blue), V12 (gray), or Juno (white/red) size 3-3.5
  - D'Addario Reserve (blue or purple for clarinet, green for saxophone) size 3-3.5
- Reeds can be purchased through ETAMU's Clarinet Coalition for \$2 a reed
  - All proceeds go to this university group to assist with future endeavors.
- If students do not use a personal instrument, they will use the provided instrument through the Yamaha program.

Small magnetic locker mirror (enough to see the entire face).

A Virtual (or physical) Notebook intended to be used during student teaching.

Access to a video recording device (phone, tablet, etc.).

Note-taking supplies as needed (pencil, highlighter, notebook/tablet/laptop).

## Some Supplemental Websites

[www.beginningwoodwinds.weebly.com](http://www.beginningwoodwinds.weebly.com)

[www.disdnurturingculture.weebly.com](http://www.disdnurturingculture.weebly.com)

[www.disdbandcurriculum.weebly.com](http://www.disdbandcurriculum.weebly.com)

[www.solidstartbeginningband.weebly.com](http://www.solidstartbeginningband.weebly.com)

[www.makingthemostofyourstudentteaching.weebly.com](http://www.makingthemostofyourstudentteaching.weebly.com)

[www.tmea.org/resources/teaching-resources/music-curriculum](http://www.tmea.org/resources/teaching-resources/music-curriculum)

<https://nafme.org/publications-resources/>

<https://cml.music.utexas.edu/online-resources/habits-of-musicianship/free-music-downloads>

<https://www.nfaonline.org>

<https://www.idrs.org/?li=1>

<https://clarinet.org>

<https://cassgb.org>

<https://bretpimentel.com>

<https://teachfortexas.org>

<https://orchestrationonline.com/category/orchestration-tips/>

<https://andrewhugill.com/OrchestraManual/index.html>

<https://www.wfg.woodwind.org/index.html>

## Course Requirements

This course is meant to teach students how to teach woodwind instruments in a beginner band setting. This is done through performance, focusing on modern pedagogy, and applying it to playing the woodwind instruments. A new teacher needs to understand the physical mechanics and pedagogy of teaching and playing each woodwind instrument, which are learned in this course. Students will learn the basic facts and the visual/aural diagnostics for each woodwind instrument and be able to apply this knowledge through peer teaching.

## Assessment

### Participation:

Students are expected to attend every class and to be engaged during instruction.

### Instrumental Lesson

- Students will experience a 1-on-1 lesson with the instructor to learn how to help a beginner who may not be taking private lessons.
- The lesson will be 15 minutes, where students will fill out a “Weekly Practice Log” to come to the lesson with an issue, and they will work with the instructor on how to fix that problem.
- Students will sign up for at least 1 slot per instrument. These can be done before and after class, or on a separate day.
- Applied students are exempt unless they would like to play an etude or solo for feedback.

### Quizzes\*:

Content quizzes will be taken through D2L.

- Parts and assembly of the instrument
- Hands and keys of the instrument
- Embouchure
- Instrument facts
- Common problems and remedies

Weekly playing quizzes for each instrument will be done in class and through video recordings.

- Tone production
- First notes
- Chromatics
- Diatonic exercises
- Finger Ninjas
- Finger Wiggles
- Tetrachords
- Level 1 scales (diatonic and chromatic)
- Lip/Register/Octave slurs

*\*Quizzes will always follow lectures, demonstrations, and student-led teaching done in class.*

## **Assignments:**

### Instrument Family Tree

- Students will create a family tree tracing their primary instrumental lineage through their teachers.
- This is meant to create a visual for their future classroom and inspire the students by featuring the names of the artists who have influenced them.

### The Virtual Notebook (a physical notebook is acceptable)

- Assemble and maintain a virtual notebook on your chosen device. This is for your reference and use once you are student teaching and for your first job in the classroom.
- Make a folder for each instrumental method class (Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, Percussion, Vocal).
- Make sub-folders for each specific instrument (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, etc.).
- Make a folder for all critical Music Education courses (Conducting, Pedagogy, etc.)
- Include any handouts from your courses (events you may attend, Google search rabbit holes, etc.) in their respective folders.
  - For this course, you will only be responsible for handouts and materials from this class. Having all your information in one place will help you when you need quick access.

### Paired Peer Teaching

- Students will be assigned a fundamental topic for teaching beginning woodwinds at the beginning of the semester.
- Students will choose a co-band director and create a lesson plan and outline/script for their lesson together.
- Each student pair will teach once during the semester.
  - Half the class will use Instrument 1, and the other half will use Instrument 2.
- Comments for all colleagues will be required for full credit.
  - Using the “Sandwich” method (Something liked—Something to be worked on—Another thing liked) is encouraged.
- A guide will be provided to help with the organization.
- It is highly recommended that video recording be used for self-evaluation.

### Instrumental Performances

- Students will apply their skills and knowledge to performing on woodwind instruments.
- Using instrument 1, students will perform a level 1 solo with online accompaniment.
  - This will be a video submission and, for full credit, must include comments on 2 colleagues.
- Using instrument 2, students will perform an arranged level 1 piece as part of a practical exercise for rehearsing a beginning band.

**Exams:**

- Mid-term – the mid-term exam will cover Instrument 1. Questions will be selected from homework assignments, instrument quizzes, class lectures, and information from the required textbook.
  - The format will be multiple-choice and essay questions. It will cover content, Visual Diagnostics, and fingerings.
- Final – The final exam will cover Instrument 2. Questions will be selected from homework assignments, instrument quizzes, class lectures, and the required textbooks.
  - The format will be multiple-choice and essay questions. It will cover content, Visual Diagnostics, and fingerings.

**Grading**

Participation – 25%

Quizzes – 25%

Assignments – 25%

Exams – 25%

**University Policies and Statements****School of Music Mission Statement:**

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

**University Mission Statement:**

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of lifelong learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

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

**School of Music Engagement Expectations**

Students are expected to participate in all assigned components of this course actively. Active participation includes being present, engaged, responsive, cooperative, respectful, and professional. It may also include providing feedback, asking questions, and being supportive of class members and faculty during instruction time.

## **Student Expectations**

Students are expected to participate in all classes actively. Notification for excused absence must be received in advance. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor.

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes by coming prepared and with all assigned materials. This course is a graduate research course. Bibliographical material, repertoire, library resources, applied techniques, as well as research techniques applicable to graduate study in music specific to flute/woodwind pedagogy will be surveyed and discussed. Be prepared to spend a significant amount of time doing research and reviewing materials outside of class.

Students are expected to demonstrate skills in pedagogy through their observation, analysis, discussion, and feedback of the performances of other students. Students are expected to gain skills in this area by observing teaching techniques in their private lessons and through observing teaching techniques of other students in studio classes, guest artist classes on campus, and optional conference attendance or optional observations of master teachers online. Students will need to submit teaching videos and acquire a waiver from the student(s) in their videos.

## **Texas Education Code – Music Education**

*This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."*

## **Attendance Policy**

### **ETAMU Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor. After one (1) unexcused absence, the student's final grade will be dropped by one (1) letter grade for each additional unexcused absence.

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>

### **For Woodwind Methods**

Students may not miss more than 3 classes in the semester.

3 absences could result in failing the course.

- 2 tardies (10 minutes late) will equal 1 absence.
- Students will be responsible for promptly making up any work done in class and getting information from a colleague.

For university-excused absences, it is the student's responsibility to obtain the appropriate documentation and present it to the instructor.

Excused absences include:

- Religious holiday
- Military service
- Official university function (with prior approval)
- Illness (with documentation)
- Family emergency
- Pregnancy and parenting under Title IX
- When the university is officially closed

At the instructor's discretion, allowance may be made for a professional audition or an interview.

Courtesy dictates notifying the instructor in advance of an absence whenever possible.

## **Late Assignments or Work**

Students should acknowledge the given due dates whenever possible.

If an assignment is missed, the student has one week to submit it. Playing quizzes should be done in person and requires scheduling an appointment with the instructor during office hours using their university email.

Students cannot make up work once a new instrument section begins.

## **Academic Integrity**

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

Undergraduate Policies:

[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>

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for the assignment or exam in question (or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure). Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalties. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to, a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other

academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes but is not limited to a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment and b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by them, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity write any substantive portion of an assignment, hire a person or a company to write assignments, or use artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT, Ask AI, Liner, MIA, etc.

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that can 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 the use of such software entirely for assignments or 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 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 a source.

### **Students with Disabilities**

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

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

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections 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).

### Student Conduct and Tenets of Common Behavior:

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 Current University 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>.

### Campus Concealed Carry Statement:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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. <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 East Texas A&M University campuses—report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom and online courses with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation based on 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.

### Technology Requirements

#### LMS

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

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

Support: [https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](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](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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework 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 house, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

#### Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please get in touch with your instructor.

#### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please get in touch with Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>.

#### Musician Health and Safety

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid severe and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#).

## \*Tentative\* Course Calendar (it will change)

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>General Content</b>
Week 1: <b>AUG 26</b>	Introduction; Daily Teaching Elements; Breathing Chant; Instrument Parts, Assembly, Hands & Keys
Week 2: <b>SEP 02</b> <i>No Classes SEP 01</i>	Position and posture; the reed and its parts; Reed Rotation; Maintenance; Embouchure; Articulation; Mouthpiece and Barrel/Bocal (aka Neck)
Week 3: <b>SEP 09</b>	Artists and Recordings; Tone Production; Hand Placement; First Notes
Week 4: <b>SEP 16</b>	Finger Ninjas and Wiggles; Tetrachords
Week 5: <b>SEP 23</b>	Instrument Basics; Register/Octave Slurs; Low Notes; Level 1 Solos
Week 6: <b>SEP 30</b>	Level 1 Scales; Chromatic Scales
Week 7: <b>OCT 07</b>	Visual Diagnostics; Upper Octave/Register Fingerings
Week 8: <b>OCT 14</b> <i>Instrument Switch</i>	Review and Wrap-up; Exams; Instrument supplies and recommendations for beginner woodwinds
Week 9: <b>OCT 21</b>	Review Daily Teaching Elements; Breathing Chant; Instrument Parts, Assembly, Hands & Keys
Week 10: <b>OCT 28</b>	Position and posture; the reed and its parts; Reed Rotation; Maintenance; Embouchure; Articulation; Mouthpiece and Barrel/Bocal (aka Neck)
Week 11: <b>NOV 04</b>	Artists and Recordings; Tone Production; Hand Placement; First Notes
Week 12: <b>NOV 11</b>	Finger Ninjas and Wiggles; Tetrachords
Week 13: <b>NOV 18</b>	Basics; Register/Octave Slurs; Level 1 Scales; Chromatic Scales
Week 14: <b>NOV 25</b> <i>No Class NOV 27-28</i>	Visual Diagnostics; Upper Octave/Register Fingerings; Holiday Music selection
Week 15: <b>DEC 02</b>	Review and Wrap-up; Holiday Concert practical exercise
Final Exam	<b>8AM</b> = Tuesday, December 09 @ 8AM-10AM <b>930AM</b> = Thursday, December 11 @ 8AM-10AM