



# East Texas A&M University

## School of Music

### Instrumental Rehearsal Techniques MUS 420.01E Fall 2025 Course Orientation

**Instructor:** Garth Gundersen  
**Office:** Music Building 191  
**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5292  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Meeting Time:** M-W-F 10:00-10:50 AM  
**Location:** Music Building 158  
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### Course Description and Assessment Outcome

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the practical instructional practices used in the secondary instrumental music education classroom, specifically those that apply to instrumental ensemble rehearsal techniques. Passage of the course is contingent on successfully completing five lab teaching practica, collectively deemed a measure of each student's potential for success in student teaching in the workplace. Upon successful completion of Organization of Instrumental Music MUS 420 the student will be able to:

- 1) Prepare and present detailed, effective lesson plans to a lab ensemble that are applicable to student instrumental ensembles at both the middle school and high school levels.
- 2) Demonstrate a thorough understanding of curriculum planning with the integration of the TEKS' four music strands.
- 3) Effectively evaluate live student performance in a heterogeneous instrumental ensemble setting, in the areas of fundamental ensemble skill development, ensemble intonation, balance, blend, phrasing, articulation, and music literacy.
- 4) Demonstrate effective techniques in leading a heterogeneous instrumental ensemble through the UIL Sight-Reading procedure, as a predictor of potential success leading a public school ensemble.

## Course Materials

- Texts:
- 1) Course-pack (\$25.00 - available from the band office)
  - 2) Tuning the Band and Raising Pitch Consciousness by James Jurens
  - 3) “First Lessons on Each Instrument: Good Habits to Develop from the Beginning” (<https://store.theinstrumentalist.com/product/first-lessons-on-each-instrument/> )
  - 4) 3” 3-Ring Binder
  - 5) Account with Go-React for video submission: (Cost is \$31.00 for the semester and can be paid after you are invited to the class through Go-React. Information will be given to you during the first class period.

## Prerequisites

Students must have successfully completed Instrumental Literature & Administration, Instrumental Conducting I, Instrumental Conducting II, and the full Theory/Ear Training sequence. Open to upper division music majors only.

## Attendance Policy

Unexcused absences in excess of TWO (2) will result in a lowering of the final earned grade at the rate of ONE (1) letter grade for each TWO (2) absences.

Example: 1-2 absences	No Effect
3-4 absences	Grade lowered by 1 letter grade
5-6 absences	Grade lowered by 2 letter grades
7+ absences	Grade of DF if withdrawal requested (or) final grade of F

Note: Excused absences are defined as illness (with note from a physician), family emergency (with release from the Dean of Students), or a university related event or activity (with prior approval). Courtesy dictates calling in advance of an absence whenever possible. Attendance affects your peers as each student will be assigned to laboratory ensembles for teaching practica.

## Grading

Grades will be determined on the basis of:

Teaching Practica (lab ensemble)	40%
Assignments (book check, etc.)	20%
Final Exam	30%
Notebook	10%
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<b>Average</b>	100%

Please Note: Assignments will be accepted late only in the event of an excused absence. Appropriate documentation verifying the excused absence should accompany the assignment. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.

This class represents the culmination of the music theory, ear-training, instrumental methods, conducting and instrumental administration and literature sequence and must be passed successfully in order to be approved to student teach.

### **Use of Electronic Devices**

To maintain a focused learning environment, it is required that **cellular phones be turned off or made inaudible during class**. This includes checking emails on any other device.

# UNIVERSITY POLICIES

## **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 life-long 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.

## **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and **13.99.99.R0.01 Class Attendance**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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

## **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.

## **School of Music Engagement Expectations**

Students are expected to actively participate in all assigned components of this course. 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 actively participate in all classes. 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 review of 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 the observation of teaching techniques in their own private lessons and through the observation of teaching techniques of other students in studio class, 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.

## **Attendance Policy**

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.

Late Assignments or Work

No Late Work accepted.

## **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."

## **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 serious and/or chronic conditions: Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University 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:

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

## **AI use policy**

East Texas A&M University 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.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

## **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 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)

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 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, an ETAMU 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>

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 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

<https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

## **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, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu); online at Student Disability Services

or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

## **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. (See current Student Guidebook)

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Campus Concealed Carry - 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 A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to 34.06.02.R1 Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus

and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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**MUS 420.001**  
**Fall 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
8/25	Introduction to Course	
8/27	Anatomy of a Rehearsal	
8/29	So, now I'm a band director...what do I teach? (TEKS/Curriculum Review/UIIL)	
9/1	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - NO CLASS	
9/3	Lesson Planning, Instructional Snapshots (Short/Long Term), Performance Cycles	
9/5	Fundamental Skill Development / Ensemble Methods Flute, Clarinet	<b>Binder Check</b>
9/8	Fundamental Skill Development / Instrument Methods Sax, Double Reed	
9/10	Fundamental Skill Development / Instrument Methods Trumpet, Horn	
9/12	Fundamental Skill Development / Instrument Methods Low Brass, Perc	<b>Book Check</b>
9/15	Building Blocks – The Warm-up Part 1	
9/17	Building Blocks – The Warm-up Part 2	
9/19	Pre Lab Ensemble Day – Live Warm Up Demonstration	
9/22	Tone Quality, Balance and Blend	
9/24	Individual Intonation	
9/26	'You be the Judge'	
9/29	Tuning the Band	
10/1	Tuning with Technology	
10/3	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #1</b> (Warm-ups & Ens. Exercises)	<b>Lesson Plan #1</b>
10/6	Harmonic Tuning	
10/8	Interpretation	
10/10	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #1</b> (Warm-ups & Ens. Exercises)	<b>Lesson Plan #2</b>
10/13	Dynamics and Musicality	
10/15	Interpretation, Musicality and Phrase Direction	
10/17	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #2</b> (Intonation)	
10/20	Interpretation, Musicality and Phrase Direction	
10/22	<b>Guest Lecturer (WE Greenville Performance)</b> Ensemble Clarity & Vertical Alignment	
10/24	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #2</b> (Intonation)	<b>Lesson Plan #3</b>
10/27	Ensemble Clarity & Note Lengths	
10/29	Defining & Refining Articulations	
10/30	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #3</b> (Phrasing and Artistry)	

11/3	Music Literacy & Sight-Reading	
11/5	Sight-reading in Ensemble Settings / The UIL Sight-reading Process	
11/7	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #3</b> (Phrasing and Artistry)	<b>Lesson Plan #4</b>
11/10	<b>No Class (PMB at State Marching Contest)</b>	
11/12	Concert Prep - Teach to the Test	
11/14	Lab Ensemble Day – <b>Teaching Module #4</b> (Clarity & Articulations)	
11/17	Sight-reading in Ensemble Settings / The UIL Sight-reading Process; Anatomy of a March	
11/19	Anatomy of a March – <b>Teaching Module #4</b> (Clarity & Articulation) (Symphonic Band 2:00-2:50 PM) (Concert Band 3:00-3:50 PM)	
11/21	Rehearsing and Cleaning the March (Rehearsal Strategies) – <b>Teaching Module #5</b> (Clarity & Articulation) (Symphonic Band 2:00-2:50 PM) (Concert Band 3:00-3:50 PM)	
11/24	Instrument Pedagogy Review (Brass) – <b>Teaching Module #5</b> (Comprehensive) (Concert Band 3:00-3:50 PM)	
11/26	Instrument Pedagogy Review (WWs)	
11/28	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS</b>	
12/1	Review / Practicum Make-Up (if needed) (Concert Band 3:00-3:50 PM)	
12/3	Review – <b>Teaching Module #5</b> (Comprehensive) (Concert Band 3:00-3:50 PM)	
12/5	Review	
12/8	<b>Final Exam</b> (10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)	<b>Final Exam/ Notebook</b>

**Note:**

- **This daily schedule is subject to change; it is provided as an overview.**
- **Sight-reading practica will take place primarily during Concert Band rehearsals.**