



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**  
**Music Department**  
**MUS 164 – Low Brass Methods T-Th 8:00-8:50**  
**MUS 164 – Low Brass Methods T-Th 9:30-10:20**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026**

**Office hours and Contact Information**

8:00 am – 8:50; 9:30 am – 10:20 Tuesday, Thursday

Office – TBA Office hours

Phone number – 469-500-8031

Email: benjamin.davis@tamuc.edu

**Course Description**

MUS 163 - Low Brass Methods

Hours: 1

- 1) To gather knowledge, concepts and ideas regarding the teaching of all the instruments in the low brass family: trombone, euphonium and tuba.
- 2) To gain a working knowledge and practice regarding the performance of each instrument. This includes the understanding and performance of scales and beginning-level solos.
- 3) To provide all members of the class, especially those majoring in music education or music performance, a firm foundation in the planning and instruction of a beginning low brass class (homogeneous or heterogeneous) in the public schools.

**Text and Materials**

- There are two textbooks for the course: 1) *A Complete Guide to Brass* by Scott Whitener, 2) *The Complete Instrument Reference Guide for Band Directors* by Jeff King & Richards Williams ([this book is available through Amazon](#))

**A music stand is REQUIRED for this class.**

**Each student must provide their own personal music stand which can be purchased through Amazon.**

- A 1.5 or 2 inch binder with a clear insert pocket on the front to assist with the labeling of the binder. This is to build a good, clean looking binder.
- 8-tab dividers with labels that can be inserted into the tab or printed & inserted in the tab. This is to build a good, clean looking binder. The dividers are to be labeled as followed:

- |                       |                      |                |                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Trombone Basics    | 2. Euphonium Basics  | 3. Tuba Basics | 4. Pedagogy      |
| 5. Low Brass Articles | 6. Class Assignments | 7. TBA         | 8. Miscellaneous |

## Grades

Grades in this course are based on four factors: Attendance, the Course Binder, Class Quizzes/Tests, and Midterm/Final Exams.

## Grade Breakdown

Course Binder =25%

Class Quizzes/Playing Assignments = 45%

Midterm & Final exam = 30%

## **ATTENDANCE IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

### Regarding Attendance

It is expected that, as future educators, students will model professional and courteous behavior by attending every class and arriving to class on time. **Unexcused absences are unprofessional**, and they will not be allowed when you are a resident or a teacher in the field.

Absences will be excused only in cases of personal illness with a doctor's note, jury duty, or the death of an immediate family member.

**If you must miss class for any reason, including sudden illness or car trouble (for commuters only), you are expected to communicate with the instructor via text or email at [benjamin.davis@etamu.edu](mailto:benjamin.davis@etamu.edu) before class begins.**

Failure to provide a physician's note, jury summons, or other proof confirming the legitimacy of the absence will result in the classification of that absence as unexcused. Due to its performance nature, face-to-face class attendance cannot be made up.

**Two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final average by one letter grade and the instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than four in-person, face-to-face classes.**

**If absences are accumulated after the drop date, the student will receive a failing grade.**

Take care to note any required university-sponsored events, tour dates, or other activities that may cause you to miss class and communicate this to the instructor **prior to the event**. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. They are **not** automatically excused. Final classification of absences will be at the discretion of the instructor. Do not schedule any personal obligations during class time. It is also important to be on time for the start of class. **Points will be deducted for being late to class.**

If a test is missed because of an excused absence (illness with doctor's note, jury duty, or death of an immediate family member), the test must be completed within **two days**. It is the student's responsibility to reschedule a make-up test.

For more information about the University attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Student Handbook: <https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiessocialsciencesarts/departmentsmusic/UndergraduateStudentHandbook/default.aspx>

Students are expected to remain fully engaged in class activities during class time. Any students who work on assignments for other classes during MMI will be asked to leave the classroom and an absence will be noted in D2L.

### Assignment Completion

Written assignments are expected to be completed before the due date. Students will not be permitted to complete written assignments during class time on the date the assignment is due.

### Class Engagement

Engagement in the class is the student's responsibility. Students are expected to fully participate in the courses whether face to face or in virtual modality. It is also imperative students and faculty communicate consistently and frequently. If, for any reason, you, the student, are not able to complete assignments or actively engage in the course, you MUST contact your instructor.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (*Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.*)

### Course Calendar

Week	8:00 am Class	9:30 am Class
Week 1 1/13 - 1/15	Trombone	Euphonium
Week 2: 1/20 – 1/22	Trombone	Euphonium
Week 3: 1/27 – 1/29	Trombone	Euphonium
Week 4: 2/3 – 2/5	Trombone	Euphonium
Week 5: 2/10 – 2/12	(TMEA Week)	(TMEA Week)
Week 6: 2/17 – 2/19	Trombone	Tuba
Week 7: 2/24 – 2/26	Trombone	Tuba
Week 8: 3/4 - 3/5	Euphonium	Tuba
Week 9: 3/17 – 3/19	Euphonium	Tuba
Week 10: 3/24 – 3/26	Euphonium	Trombone
Week 11: 3/31 – 4/2	Euphonium	Trombone
Week 12: 4/7 – 4/9	Tuba	Trombone
Week 13: 4/14 – 4/16	Tuba	Trombone
Week 14: 4/21 – 4/23	Tuba	Trombone

## 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 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 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 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:

### **UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES**

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

### **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)

### **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 [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 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.

**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**

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 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, a 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>

## **Health and Wellness**

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.

*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."*