

MUS 531 Tuba Pedagogy

East Texas A&M University School of Music
Spring 2026 Course Syllabus

Dr. Jeff Baker, Professor of Tuba & Euphonium

Course Description:

MUS 531 – Pedagogy

Hours: 2

One to three semester hours. Approved subtitles will include Levels I and II in each of the following areas: low brass, high brass, woodwinds, double reeds, percussion, piano, voice, elementary (i.e. Orff, Kodaly, etc.). May be repeated for credit when subtitles vary.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Graduating students will articulate and demonstrate an advanced understanding of effective corporate pedagogical strategies according to emphasis (instrumental, vocal, elementary).

Contact Information and Office Hours:

Music Building, Room 229

Email: Jeff.Baker@tamuc.edu

Dr. Baker's Cell Phone: 469-417-9404

Office Hours: Meetings may be scheduled by appointment

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Articulate a comprehensive philosophy of tuba pedagogy grounded in research and professional practice
- Analyze and address technical, musical, and physical aspects of tuba performance
- Design sequential curricula for beginning, intermediate, and advanced tuba students
- Diagnose common performance challenges and propose effective pedagogical solutions
- Evaluate and apply pedagogical literature, etudes, and repertoire
- Demonstrate effective teaching through peer and supervised teaching experiences

Required & Recommended Materials:

Required:

- Selected method books, etude collections, and pedagogical readings
- Access to recording equipment for teaching demonstrations

Recommended:

- Jacobs, Arnold. *Song and Wind*
- Farkas, Philip. *The Art of Brass Playing*
- Stewart, Sam. *Tuba Studio Pedagogy Resources* (articles and handouts)
- Current journal articles related to brass pedagogy, physiology, and performance psychology

Course Content Areas:

- Historical development of tuba pedagogy
- Anatomy, physiology, and breathing mechanics
- Sound production and tone development
- Articulation and flexibility
- Range, endurance, and efficiency
- Intonation and tuning systems
- Equipment selection (tubas, mouthpieces, accessories)
- Practice strategies and skill acquisition
- Solo, orchestral, chamber, and band literature
- Teaching beginners through advanced students
- Psychological aspects of performance and learning
- Studio organization and professional ethics

Assignments & Assessments:

- Pedagogical Reading Reflections (20%)
 - Written responses to assigned readings connecting theory to teaching practice.
- Teaching Demonstrations & Labs (25%)
 - Supervised peer teaching sessions with written self-evaluations.
- Curriculum Project (20%)
 - Design a year-long pedagogical sequence for a specific student level.
- Research Presentation (15%)
 - Oral presentation on a specialized topic in tuba pedagogy.
- Final Teaching Philosophy Paper (20%)
 - Comprehensive statement of personal pedagogical approach supported by course materials.

Weekly Schedule:

- Week 1: Course overview; teaching philosophies
- Week 2: History of tuba performance and pedagogy
- Week 3: Breathing and body use
- Week 4: Tone production and resonance
- Week 5: Articulation and flexibility
- Week 6: Range, endurance, and efficiency
- Week 7: Intonation and tuning
- Week 8: Equipment and setup
- Week 9: Practice strategies and motor learning
- Week 10: Teaching beginners
- Week 11: Intermediate and advanced pedagogy
- Week 12: Literature and repertoire sequencing
- Week 13: Performance psychology and wellness
- Week 14: Teaching demonstrations
- Week 15: Final presentations and course wrap-up

Grading:

Grading Explanation

- A Superior preparation, all paperwork turned in on time, content is thoughtful and complete
- B Excellent preparation, some paperwork turned in late or incomplete, content is adequate.
- C Average preparation, paperwork turned in late or incomplete, content is lacking and some assignments may require additional work.
- D Poor preparation, unacceptable timeline for paperwork.
- F Failure of the class due to attendance, lack of preparation, unacceptable progress, or other factors.

School of Music Mission Statement

The East Texas A&M University School of Music 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.

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 [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>

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 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>

Illness and Attendance

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

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 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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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 911.

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
Waters Library, Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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 course

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.

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

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

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.

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.

University Communication and 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>

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](#)

Texas Education Code Standards

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."