



MUS 147.01E – Instrumental Pedagogy for Vocalists

Texas A&M University-Commerce – Music Department

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

Section: T/Th 11:00–11:50 am

Instructor & Contact Information

- Instructor: Benjamin Davis
- Room: 156

Course Description

This course introduces vocal music education majors to rudimentary aspects of wind and percussion instruments, including basic tone production, error detection, pedagogy, instrument care and maintenance, and instrumental program administration.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Produce a basic characteristic tone on wind and percussion instruments with correct embouchure/sticking technique.
2. Identify rudimentary instrumental performance errors through visual and auditory stimulus, and propose appropriate solutions to correct each error.
3. Describe and implement instrumental pedagogy suitable for a beginning student.
4. Use appropriate resources to administer and maintain an instrumental program.

Required Materials

- Letter sized or legal sized note pad and pens for taking notes.
- 2"–2.5" binder with a clear front insert pocket, for labeling
- 8-tab dividers labeled:
 1. Woodwind Instruments,
 2. Selecting Woodwind Players,
 3. Brass Instruments,
 4. Selecting Brass Players,
 5. Percussion Instruments,
 6. Selecting Percussion Players,
 7. String Instruments
 8. Miscellaneous

Recommended Course Materials

Recommended: The Handy Dandy Fingering Charts for Instrumentalists, compiled by Michael Hewitt (ISBN: 0-8258-0301-2), or another instrumental fingering app.

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods: This course is primarily a lab (performance)-based course; performance is supplemented by lectures and presentations.

Assessments:

- **Daily Tasks:** Evaluate mastery of content, including fingerings, identification, transposition, pedagogy, and instrumental program administration.
- **Arrangement / Teaching Scenario:** Arrange a simple folk or traditional melody for beginning ensemble and teach the arrangement to the class.
- **Proficiencies:** Administered throughout the semester to assess progress on assigned instruments and materials.
- **Exams:** Midterm and final exams will be administered.

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Component	Weight
Attendance & Participation	10%
Proficiencies (Instrumental assignment playing)	20%
Daily Tasks (Study Guides)	20%
Exams (End of Topic Exams/ Midterm/ Final)	25%
Binder	25%

Grading Scale: A = 90–100% B = 80–89% C = 70–79% D = 60–69% F = 59% & below

Course Calendar, Fall 2026*

Week	Class Content/Activity	Assignments	Focus
Week 1: Aug 20 (Thurs)	Distribute Flutes	Westphal Chap 1	Intro to Flute
Week 2: 8/25–8/27	Flutes		Flute
Week 3: 9/1–9/3	Flutes	Westphal Chap 3	Flute
Week 4: 9/8–9/10	Flutes	Westphal Chap 7	Flute
Week 5: 9/15–9/17	Flutes		Clarinet
Week 6: 9/22–9/24	Flutes	Westphal Chap 5	Clarinet (Clarinet/Sax Reeds)
Week 7: 9/29–10/1	Flutes	Westphal Chap 6	Double Reed - Oboe
Week 8: 10/6–10/8	Trumpet — Midterm Exam	Westphal Chap 8	Double Reed – Bassoon Reeds
Week 9: 10/13–10/15	Intro to Trumpet	Westphal Chap 4	Saxophone
Week 10: 10/20–10/22	Trumpet	Whitener Chap 3 (Tpt/Cornet)	Saxophone
Week 11: 10/27–10/29	Trumpet	Whitener Chap 4 (French Horn)	Trumpet and Cornet
Week 12: 11/3–11/5	Trumpet	Whitener Chap 5 (Trombone)	French Horn
Week 13: 11/10–11/12	Trumpet	Whitener Chap 6 (Euphonium)	Trombone & Baritone
Week 14: 11/17–11/19	Trumpet	Whitener Chap 7 (Tuba)	Tuba
Week 15: 11/24–11/26	Trumpet — Thanksgiving Week	Colwell Chap 26 (Percussion)	Percussion
Week 16: 12/1–12/3	(Final Exam During this Week)		Percussion

Attendance Policy

As future educators, students are expected to attend every class and arrive on time. Unexcused absences are considered unprofessional and will not be tolerated once you are working in the field.

Excused absences: illness (with a doctor's note), jury duty, or the death of an immediate family member.

- Notify the instructor by text or email (benjamin.davis@etamu.edu) before class begins if you must miss for any reason, including sudden illness or car trouble (commuters only).
- Absences without supporting documentation will be classified as unexcused.
- **TARDIES:** Classes will begin, on time, at the time noted in this syllabus. A tardy will deduct points from your participation grade. Periodically, we will have five-question "pop" quizzes that will be administered at the start of the class. You must be present and on time to take these tests. Late comers will not be permitted to take the test and will receive a zero.
- Because of the course's performance nature, missed class time cannot be made up.
- Two unexcused absences can lower the final grade by one letter; the instructor may drop any student who accumulates more than four unexcused in-person absences. Absences accumulated after the drop date result in a failing grade.
- Notify the instructor of known conflicts (university-sponsored events, tours, etc.) as soon as possible. These are reviewed case by case and are not automatically excused.
- Do not schedule personal obligations during class time. Tests missed due to an excused absence must be completed within two days; rescheduling is the student's responsibility.
- Do NOT communicate through other students. Be personally responsible.

Students are expected to remain fully engaged during class time. Working on other coursework during class may result in dismissal and a recorded absence in D2L.

Policy references: [University Attendance Policy](#)
[Undergraduate Student Handbook](#)

Assignment Completion

Written assignments are due before the deadline. Class time on the due date may not be used to complete written assignments. Late work will be accepted only in cases approved by the professor. (See Absences)

Class Engagement

Engagement is the student's responsibility, whether class meets face-to-face or in a virtual modality. Students and faculty are expected to communicate consistently and promptly; contact the instructor immediately if you are unable to complete assignments or engage in the course.

All students are expected to follow the tenets of common decency and professional conduct described in the Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.

Course and University Procedures / Policies

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.

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](#)

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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](#)

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 or 903-886-5835; email studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu; online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and 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

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 others 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: [Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

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.

University Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

Music Department Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M-Commerce promotes excellence in music through preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.