



MUS 164 – Low Brass Methods

Texas A&M University-Commerce – Music Department

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Meeting Time: T/Th 8:00-8:50 am

Instructor & Contact Information

- Instructor: Benjamin Davis
- Email: benjamin.davis@tamuc.edu
- Phone: 469-500-8031
- Office: TBA
- Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00–8:50 am and 9:30–10:20 am

Course Description

MUS 164 – Low Brass Methods (1 credit hour). This course prepares students to teach and perform on low brass instruments — trombone, euphonium, and tuba. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the core knowledge, concepts, and pedagogy for teaching the low brass family (trombone, euphonium, tuba).
2. Demonstrate a working performance knowledge of each instrument, including scales and beginning-level solos.
3. Plan and deliver instruction for a beginning low brass class (homogeneous or heterogeneous) in the public schools — essential for music education and performance majors.

Required Materials

Textbooks:

- *A Complete Guide to Brass*, Scott Whitener
- *The Complete Instrument Reference Guide for Band Directors*, Jeff King & Richard Williams (available on Amazon)

Equipment:

- You must have your own music stand—it is a requirement for this class. (Available from Amazon)
- A small mirror that will sit comfortably on your music stand.
- A 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. Trombone H&P,
 2. Euphonium H&P,
 3. Tuba H&P,
 4. Instrument Maintenance,
 5. Class Practice Lines,
 6. Class Assignments,
 7. Textbook Chapters
 8. Miscellaneous

(H&P = History and Pedagogy)

Grading

Component	Weight
Course Binder	25%
Class Quizzes / Playing Assignments	20%
Midterm & Final Exam	30%
Participation / Attendance	25%

Grades Will be Determined, in Part by the Following:

1. Grades on Weekly Study Guides/Class Lectures
2. Class Quizzes/Exams/ Playing Assignments
3. Organization of Class Work (Binder)
4. Participation - Attendance

Note: Attendance is a significant factor in determining your final grade (see Attendance Policy below).

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 as a teacher.

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.

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

Assignment Completion

Written assignments are due and must be submitted on the assigned date. 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)

Late Work: Accepted only in the event of an excused absence, or if approved by the instructor in advance, and must be submitted during the next class period attended. Assignments will not be accepted if the result of an unexcused absence.

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 Calendar

Week	Class Focus	Assignments	Topic
Week 1: Aug 20 (Thurs)	Trombone		
Week 2: 8/25–8/27	Trombone	Whitner, Chapt 1 Study Guide	How Brass Instruments Work
Week 3: 9/1–9/3	Trombone	Bailey Chapt 1, Overtone Series	Acoustics of Brass Instruments
Week 4: 9/8–9/10	Trombone	Bailey, Chapt 2 & 3: Study Guide	Breath Control/Embouchure
Week 5: 9/15–9/17	Trombone	Whitener, Chapt 10 Study Guide	Tone Production
Week 6: 9/22–9/24	Trombone	Whitener, Chapt 5 Study Guide	The Trombone
Week 7: 9/29–10/1	Trombone	Bailey, Chapt 8 Study Guide	The Trombone
Week 8: 10/6–10/8	Euphonium (Still use Tbones in class)	Midterm Exam	
Week 9: 10/13–10/15	Euphonium	Whitener, Chapt 11 Study Guide	Playing Position - Brass
Week 10: 10/20–10/22	Euphonium	Bailey, Chapt 9 Study Guide	The Euphonium
Week 11: 10/27–10/29	Euphonium	Whitener, Chapt 8 Study Guide	The Baritone & Euphonium
Week 12: 11/3–11/5	Tuba	Whitener, Chapt 7 Study Guide	The Tuba
Week 13: 11/10–11/12	Tuba	Bailey, Chapt 10 Study Guide	The Tuba
Week 14: 11/17–11/19	Tuba		
Week 15: 11/24–11/26	Tuba (Thanksgiving Week)		
Week 16: 12/1–12/3	Review – Final Exam will be this week.		

Syllabus is subject to change during the semester!

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:

[Attendance Policy](#)

[Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

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 the definition of academic dishonesty and related procedures, see:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute providing comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment with reasonable accommodation. If you have a disability requiring 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

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 events and confidential services, visit 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 guidance on interacting with others in an online forum.

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 under Texas law, may also 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 (see the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document or consult your event organizer).

The open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses (PC 46.035). 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. 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).

- LMS Browser Support: [Browser Support](#)
- Zoom Video Conferencing Tool: [Zoom Account Info](#)

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.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student should have a backup plan (e.g., a backup computer, a friend's home, the local library, a campus computer lab).

Communication and Support: If you have questions or difficulties with course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support: If you are having technical difficulty with Brightspace, contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778, or visit:

[Brightspace Support](#)

Health and Wellness

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness, including resources for physical and mental well-being and preventative measures to avoid serious or chronic conditions (see the Musician Health and Safety page on the University website).

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering 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."