Brass Area Handbook

Instructors

Dr. Robert Allison, Trumpet - rallison@siu.edu - OBF 216
Dr. Jessica Butler, Trombone, Euphonium, & Tuba - j.butler@siu.edu - Altgeld 202
Prof. Jennifer Presar, Horn - jpresar@siu.edu - OBF 106

Applied Lessons

Trumpet (MUS 040G - 540G)
Horn (MUS 040F - 540F)
Trombone (MUS 040H - 540H)
Euphonium (MUS 040I - 540I)
Tuba (MUS 040J - 540J)

Undergraduate Degree Descriptions

Bachelor of Arts

- Liberal Arts - for students who wish to combine the study and performance of music with that of another field (e.g. computer science, psychology, art, etc.). The culminating project (presentation, research paper, recital, etc.) must combine both areas of study.

Advisor: Prof. Jennifer Presar
Music Business - for students who wish to enter one of the many fields involving production, distribution, arts management, marketing, promotion, etc. Advisor: Dr. Richard Kelley

Bachelor of Music

Music Education - for students who are interested in the development of musical skills and education. This degree also includes certification for teaching in the Illinois school system (vocal, instrumental, and general music K-12). Advisor: Dr. James Reifinger

Performance - for students who are interested in developing high level performance skills which could lead to professional performance or continuing on to a Master’s degree.

Theory / Composition - for students who are interested in composing and the analysis of music. This degree could also lead to continuing on to a Master’s degree. Advisor: Dr. Christopher Walczak

Graduate Degree Description

Master of Music

Performance - for students who already have a BM and are interested in furthering their musical performance and pedagogy skills. Advisor: Dr. Christopher Morehouse

Brass Area Applied Lesson Syllabus

Course Objectives

- To improve technical facility, musical perception, and expressive capabilities in performance through fundamentals, drills, exudes, and solo and chamber repertoire
- To broaden knowledge of repertoire and study materials
- To acquire competence as a solo performer through public performances
- To acquire competence as a performer to be a productive player in an ensemble and / or chamber group
To learn a variety of pedagogical approaches, demonstrate the ability to diagnose technical and musical problems, and to then articulate appropriate and effective pedagogical solutions

Course Description

Registration in applied study includes lessons, studio classes, and convocations. Lessons consist of a half hour or 50 minute lesson once each week and participation in studio classes and convocations as described below. Each student registered will be required to perform a jury at the end of each semester (with the exceptions of the semester(s) registered for MUS 398, MUS 498, or MUS 598 or if the student is performing an Upper Divisional jury).

Lessons for each semester are generally scheduled with instructors during the first week of classes.

All students who are music majors enrolled in Applied Music (MUS 140x-540x) are required to attend the following:

- Studio Class on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.
- Convocations in Shryock Auditorium or the OBF Recital Hall during the first Studio Class of each month (or as scheduled)
- At least seven approved recitals or concerts at the School of Music in which you are not a participant. Recital Attendance is recorded on a blue card available in the front office.

All students who are enrolled in Applied Music 140x-540x are required to perform in the following:

- Studio Class as assigned by your instructor
- Convocation as assigned by your instructor
- An approved / appropriate large ensemble as determined by your audition or placement

Course Content

Applied Lesson content includes brass performance and pedagogy. Materials are drawn from selected standard solo and study literature, based on the needs and abilities of each student, as determined by the instructor. Each lesson will include time spent on the student’s growth as a performer and as a pedagogue. Areas of inquiry will include:
● Musicianship
● Technical command
● Stage presence
● Teaching approaches to fundamental techniques such as:
  ○ Posture and horn carriage
  ○ Breathing
  ○ Embouchure formation and function
  ○ Valve / slide technique
  ○ Register development
● Professionalism

**Grading**

Your final grade will be a compilation of your weekly lesson grade, Studio Class grade, and Final Jury grade (20%). Additionally, your individual professor may include other elements of grading in the course syllabus.

**Weekly Lessons**

Each student will receive a grade for their lesson each week based on their preparedness and improvement. A prepared student will always bring the materials that they need for each lesson. All students are required to purchase their own method books and solos that are used each semester.

**Lesson Attendance Policy** - Brass study requires faithful attendance at lessons and regular, regimented practice on given assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to notify your instructor *at least 24 hours in advance* if they must miss a lesson due to a conflicting university engagement. If you are sick on the day of your lesson, then please email or call your instructor as soon as you can. *Any unexcused lessons will result in the deduction of one full letter grade from the final grade.* The instructor is not obligated to make up missed lessons if there is no legitimate reason provided for the absence. Calling, emailing, or texting your instructor at the lesson time or just before asking to reschedule is not acceptable or professional. Lessons will be made up in the case of illness, extenuating circumstances, or an excused absence. If the instructor must miss a lesson because of a professional or personal conflict, the lesson will be
notified in a timely manner, and the lesson will be made up as soon as possible, at the student's convenience.

**Studio Class & Convocation**

Attendance will be taken each Studio Class and Convocation, and perfect attendance is expected.

Studio Class provides opportunities for you to perform in front of your peers, receive constructive criticism and encouragement, participate in discussions relevant to brass performance and pedagogy, and profit from hearing new repertoire, musical ideas, and pedagogical approaches. All students are required to contribute to the class discussion with written and verbal comments. All majors will perform multiple times each semester, and all students will present a topic, chosen in consultation with your instructor during the spring semester.

Additionally, your instructor will present special topics and master classes and coach chamber music groups during this time. A proposed calendar of topics, assignments, and performances will be distributed so that students will be able to prepare properly for Studio Class.

Your instructors will often invite guest artists to present master classes and recitals. Students in the Brass Area are expected to attend all Brass Area events and concerts. This includes guest artist events, brass faculty recitals, brass student recitals, and brass chamber group recitals. If you are unable to attend such an event, then please provide proper documentation to your applied instructor in a timely manner. Perfect attendance is expected and will help encourage a supportive Brass Area.

Your Studio Class grade will be determined by your preparedness for performances, thoughtful contribution to discussions and comments, completion of assignments and/or presentation, and attendance.

**Juries**

Students enrolled in Applied Lessons will perform a “jury” at the end of the semester in front of the brass faculty. Your jury performance materials will be chosen in consultation with your applied instructor. This performance is somewhat of a culmination of your work over the
semester, and you will be graded on your preparedness, professionalism, and of course your demonstrated musicianship. Students who are taking their Upper Divisional or performing a solo recital will not be required to perform an additional jury.

This performance of musical materials should include piano accompaniment and should last about 10 minutes. Each student must request a staff accompanist in a timely manner (free of charge) or make arrangements otherwise (not free). Please see the Accompanying Handbook for more information. The rubric that the brass faculty fills out during your jury adds up to 30 possible points. Your grade will be an average of the faculty’s scores and will be out of 25 points (5 point curve). This score takes into account the student’s level and expected ability at said level.

Additionally, students should dress professionally, turn in their completed recital attendance card (blue card), and bring their completed repertoire list for the semester.

Additional Information Please consult the School of Music Handbook on topics such as recording policies and acquiring an accompanist.

All students are encouraged to join their professional organizations for their instrument and areas of interests.

International Trumpet Guild
International Horn Society
International Trombone Association
International Tuba Euphonium Association
International Women’s Brass Conference
College Music Society
National Association for Music Education
Music Teachers National Association