

**MUS 3241**  
**Brass Methods**  
**Fall 2014**

Classroom: Band Room

Class times: MW, 10:30-11:20

Credit Hours: 1

Instructor: Tim Allen

Office Hours: TBA or other times by appointment

Email: allent@lindsey.edu

Telephone: office – 384-7337, cell: 270-634-1647

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

MUS 3241 is designed to help music education students learn how to teach each of the brass instruments in a public school setting. Students will discover how to do this most effectively by learning first-hand how to play each of the instruments himself or herself to a basic level.

**TEXTS**

- Bailey, Wayne. *Teaching Brass*, 2nd Edition. McGraw Hill. 2008.
- Various beginning brass method books (TBA).

**EDUCATION PROGRAM PREPARATION**

This course is required for content preparation in P-12, Secondary, Middle Grades and Elementary Education Program(s) and prepares teacher candidates with the knowledge base for MUSIC required in the Kentucky Core Academic Standards and the College Career Readiness Standards. The Conceptual Framework for the Education Program, "Teacher as Leader for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", is incorporated. The Division of Humanities and Fine Arts works with the Education Program in preparing the teacher candidates with the knowledge base required to meet Kentucky Teacher Standard I and the Education Program Student Learning Outcome for Content Knowledge. Teacher candidates will be equipped to teach P-12 students and meet requirements for Unbridled Learning.

**DIVISION OF EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Knowledge: Candidates demonstrate in-depth understanding of processes, concepts, knowledge, and 21st century skills in their content area(s).

**ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course addresses the following Lindsey Wilson College essential student learning outcomes. Specific assessment tasks associated with these outcomes are noted on the chart at the end of the syllabus.

1. Develop effective skills of inquiry and analysis (creative inquiry)
4. Become culturally aware, engaged citizens of the nation and the world (communicate across cultural boundaries, ethical reasoning)
5. Learn to apply and integrate knowledge (application and integration)

Q

Q

Q

Q

## **OBJECTIVES**

To prepare the student to teach the brass instruments at the elementary and secondary levels. In order to do this, the student will learn:

- Teaching strategies for the brass instruments.
- How to play each of the brass instruments to a basic level of proficiency:
  - How to form a correct embouchure and breathe effectively.
  - How to produce a characteristic tone.
  - How to hold and finger the instrument correctly and most efficiently.
- How brass instruments work.
- The function of a brass embouchure, how to teach it, and how to diagnose problems.
- Where to find sources of information on brass instruments and pedagogy.

## **TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS**

Performance of the brass instruments, readings, lectures, handouts, teaching assignments, and observations.

## **PRACTICE**

Playing time in class is very limited, and the student is exposed to each instrument for only a few weeks at a time. Therefore, daily private practice outside of class is critical for developing a correctly functioning embouchure. Students are required to practice at least 20 minutes each day, five days per week, outside of class time, for a total of 100 minutes per week.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Prompt attendance at all class sessions is required. Each unexcused absence beyond two may result in a one-letter grade deduction. Two unexcused tardies are the equivalent of one unexcused absence. Valid excuses include official school events, illness, and emergency. Work and homework excuses are not acceptable excuses. All absences should be reported to the instructor either prior to a scheduled event or within one week afterward if the absence was unforeseen. **Students are responsible for the acquisition and completion of all materials and activities missed during an absence.**

## **ASSIGNMENTS/LATE WORK POLICY**

Homework assignments will be given on a daily basis. Each chapter should be read carefully and completely **before** the class session in which it is to be discussed, and practicing must be done on a daily basis. It is essential that all students participate actively in class. Therefore, all playing assignments must be prepared ahead of time. **Late written assignments may receive deductions of 10 points per day and may not be accepted after one week past the due date.**

0

0

0

0

### **PLAYING TESTS**

Playing quizzes will be held periodically to ensure that the student is practicing consistently outside of class. Final playing exams will also be held at the end of each unit.

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES**

Short written assignments and quizzes will be given periodically to check on the student's grasp of the conceptual material. Final written quizzes will also be given over the material on each instrument.

### **TEACHING DEMONSTRATIONS**

Several times during the semester, each student will teach a beginning-level lesson on one of the brass instruments to another less experienced student. These demonstrations will take place in class, and the student/teacher will be evaluated on the effectiveness of each lesson.

### **TEACHING OBSERVATIONS**

Each student will be required to observe a minimum of four brass lessons, on different instruments, during the semester. A typed one-page observation report is required after each lesson. Each observation must be cleared with the instructor being observed beforehand.

### **OUTSIDE BRASS PERFORMANCES**

Each student will be expected to attend a minimum of four brass recitals, masterclasses, or other special events that feature brass players. This includes, but is not limited to, student and faculty recitals, as well as guest brass recitals and masterclasses. The student must turn in a signed program from each event, with a one-page, single-spaced review.

### **COURSE NOTEBOOK**

The course notebook will be a compilation of notes taken in class, notes taken during observations, written assignments, and handouts provided by the instructor. Hopefully, this will serve as an important and useful reference tool to be used during the student's career as a teacher. More detailed information on the class notebook will be issued at a later date.

### **GRADING**

20% Playing tests  
20% Written assignments and quizzes  
20% Teaching demonstrations  
5% Teaching observations  
5% Outside brass performances  
20% Course notebook  
10% Final exam

### **GRADING SCALE**

A 90-100  
B 80-90  
C 70-80  
D 60-70  
F 59 and below

0

8

C

C