



Ouachita Baptist University

Low Brass Studio – Josh Bynum

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Course Syllabus for Applied Trombone

Brief Statement of Course Goals: The primary goal of this course is to identify and focus on the various aspects that make up a competent and confident musician. This level of artistry is attained through the study of fundamental concepts as well as etude and solo materials designed to improve the musicianship and technical mastery of the trombone by the student in pursuit of a music teaching and/or performance career.

Lessons: Students enrolled for one credit hour are entitled to one thirty minute lesson each week. Students enrolled for two credit hours are entitled to an hour lesson each week. Lessons will consist of assigned scales, etudes, solos, and sight-reading. Each lesson should demonstrate careful preparation of assigned materials and improvement in technical ability. It is important to remember that improvement comes in the practice room. Lessons are intended to be intense workouts on assigned materials that enable me to properly diagnose any problem areas, or note areas of improvement. This is only possible when the material is prepared, and you play your best. In other words, lessons are **NOT** supervised practice sessions.

Assignments: Weekly assignments normally consist of scales, fundamental exercises, technical and legato etudes, as well as solo material. All assignments must be passed off by the end of the semester to receive full credit for the course.

Practice: Students taking thirty minute lessons are required to practice at least one hour a day. Students taking hour lessons should practice at least 2 hours a day. **These requirements are the bare minimum.** If you wish to succeed in any area of the music profession you must establish a consistent, concentrated practice regimen - **See Addendum for Effective Practice Strategies.**

Very few people are naturally gifted in terms of instrumental ability. Like most activities, results come slow at the beginning. However, after a period of consistently attacking your deficiencies you will begin to see progress. The more you improve, the more you will enjoy practicing.

Attendance and Related Policies: Attendance at **all** lessons is required. Please arrive early, and be warmed-up, ready to play, and mentally prepared for your lesson so that time may be spent in the most efficient and productive way. If you are unable to attend a lesson, I ask for 24 hours notice. In cases of emergency, please contact me as soon as possible. Excused absences from lessons will be rescheduled. Unexcused absences will not be made up. If you fail to inform me of your absence, you will receive a failing grade for that lesson. **Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the semester.**

The student is expected to be punctual in his or her lesson attendance. Tardy arrival in excess of 5 minutes after the established lesson time will be tallied at the rate of 3 tardies = 1 absence. Tardy arrival in excess of 10 minutes will not be tolerated. In any such instance, the lesson will be forfeit and not rescheduled.

There may be times during the school year when I will be off-campus performing and/or recruiting. Lessons cancelled by the instructor will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient date and time.

Absences by reason of mandatory attendance at University-sponsored events (concerts, class field trips, etc.) will not be held against the student. In such instances, a copy of the pertinent policy letter from the sponsoring instructor/department must be presented **before** the date of the event.

Grading: Evaluation is based on weekly lesson grades, practice journals, semester projects, recital attendance, and jury performance (majors and minors).

- **Weekly Lessons** will be assigned a letter grade based on preparation and execution of assigned materials.
- **Practice Journal:** Each student will be required to keep a practice journal. This journal should not only be a record of material covered during the semester but should also detail each student's effort to diagnose and devise solutions for any playing deficiencies.
- **Semester Project:** A student should be familiar with the major pedagogical writings for his or her instrument. The student will read and submit a detailed summary of reading assigned by the instructor. The summary may be submitted any time prior to the beginning of the exam period. Failure to submit a summary will result in an incomplete grade for the course. Additional book summaries may be completed for extra credit. Students at Ouachita are obligated to uphold the Covenant on Academic Honor, which reads in part, "I will refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty, and I will act responsibly when confronted with the knowledge of such behavior." For the possible consequences of any violation of this covenant, please see [The Tiger Handbook](#)
- **Recital Attendance:** Majors and minors are expected to attend all recitals given by Wind Faculty, Faculty Brass Ensemble, Visiting Artists, or any fellow brass or woodwind student. In addition, students are expected to attend large ensemble concerts given by the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Jazz Band.
- **Juries:** All majors and minors are required to perform a jury at the end of the semester. Juries are played in front of the wind faculty and consist of **any** material covered during the course of the semester. You should be prepared to play **at least** a legato etude, technical etude, as well as any solo material covered during the semester. Each member of the jury panel will provide comments as well as a number grade. These grades will be averaged and given to me for evaluations. The applied professor may raise or lower the averaged grade by six (6) points. Grades will be determined using the following criteria:
 - A = Highest level of achievement. Superior progress made in fundamental approach to the instrument, technique, and musicality; completion of the amount of material necessary for substantial progress. **To be eligible for an A in private lessons, a student must perform in the Performing Arts Class (PAC) after the first semester of study.**
 - B = Excellent achievement. Prepared for each lesson, and has displayed high levels of progress in technique and musicality. An acceptable amount of literature has been covered.
 - C = Average. Prepared for each lesson; potential not reached due to inadequate amount of practice; improvement is recommended.
 - D = Poor. Inadequate preparation for lessons; minimum amount of practice necessary to receive a passing grade; much more practice time is recommended.
 - F = Failing. Not prepared for lessons; no progress has been made during the semester.

Required Materials:

The study of a brass instrument requires owning and maintaining the necessary equipment. Among the equipment needed is:

- Instrument and mouthpiece
- All necessary mutes
- Etude books and solo material. Each student will be required to own his or her **original** of each work performed in public.
- Micro-cassette recorder with counter and half speed feature
- Tuner
- Metronome

Suggested Materials:

- Mini Disc recorder or Digital Audio Recorder and microphone
- B.E.R.P
- Tune-Up System
- Smart Music software

The Low Brass Studio Model Student:

1. Practices diligently and possesses hunger for knowledge and improvement.
2. Takes every aspect of career at OBU seriously.
3. Accepts suggestions and criticism gracefully and non-defensively.
4. Is largely self-taught and self-motivated using teacher as a guide.
5. Is always prepared for lessons and always has something ready to perform.
6. Exhibits flexibility and a positive attitude.
7. Listens to fine recordings and reads about instrument on a consistent basis.
8. Is helpful and supportive to others in the OBU low brass community.
9. Purchases sheet music and CDs, understanding the negative effects of piracy.
10. Browses numerous resources looking for new literature.
11. Is curious about technology and how it can be of great benefit.

Music is one of life's great joys, and applied music study a privilege. It will be my great privilege to work with you, my students, in its pursuit.

Joshua L. Bynum
Low Brass Instructor
Ouachita Baptist University

