

MUAG 1202 | Low Brass Methods Syllabus

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MUAG 1202.500
MWF 11:00am
Office hours by appointment

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MUAG 1202.502
TuTh 9:30am
Office hours by appointment

Course Description

This course will prepare undergraduate music education students to go into any beginner to intermediate brass class setting and successfully teach trombone, euphonium and tuba. Skills will include, but are not limited to, instruction on instrument selection, teaching posture, breathing, instrument parts, instrument assembly, embouchure, tone production, articulation, range, fingerings, transpositions, diagnosing problems and offering solutions, and care and maintenance for each brass instrument.

Course Goals

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Understand the sequencing of teaching a brass instrument and other musical elements to a beginning band student.
- Know reasonable expectations for a beginning brass student.
- Demonstrate the instrument selection process.
- Teach and demonstrate correct posture for each brass instrument.
- Teach and demonstrate correct breathing for a wind instrument.
- Teach and demonstrate correct assembly of each brass instrument.
Teach and model correct embouchure for each brass instrument.
- Teach and model a characteristic sound for each brass instrument.
- Teach and model correct articulation for each brass instrument.
- Be able to diagnose typical problems that may occur while a beginning band student learns a brass instrument both visual and aural.
- Teach and demonstrate the correct fingerings for the practical range of the brass instruments.
- Know instrument tuning tendencies and practical solutions for each brass instrument.
- Know the inherent technical problems for each brass instrument.
- Have a working knowledge on how to develop individual musicians past the beginner year.
- Have a working knowledge of brands of instruments, reed brands & strengths, mouthpieces and other equipment used in a band setting.

Required Texts, Materials, and Equipment

- Burk, DeSoto, Johnson, Meredith, and Talanca. *Musical Mastery Brass Teacher's Edition*. MRNS Music, 2016
- Appropriate instrument and mouthpiece. This is \$60 per semester for the instrument and mouthpiece through UNT Wind Repair Office
- Note taking supplies, writing utensils, & highlighter
- Small locker mirror w/magnets on the back

Website Resources

[Nurturing a Culture of Excellence](#)
[Creating a Unified Curriculum](#)

[Solid Start for Beginning Band](#)
[Making the Most of Your Student Teaching](#)
[TMEA Teaching Resources](#)
[Ensemble Skills](#)

Class Structure

First day of classes - January 12/13

Midterms - March 4/5

First day of second half - March 16/17

Finals - April 29/30

Last day to withdraw - April 10

Grades due - May 11

MUAG 1102.502 (Glading)

- Tuba/Euphonium – January 12 – March 6 (instrument exchange on March 6)
- Trombone – March 16 – April 30 (instrument return before May 1)

MUAG 1102.502 (Gardner)

- Trombone – January 12 – March 6 (instrument exchange on March 6)
- Tuba/Euphonium – March 16 – April 30 (instrument return before May 1)

Course Expectations

- *Preparation* to succeed, demonstrate, understand, participate, and contribute to class culture.
- *Participate* in discussion, instructional sessions, demonstration, and performance.
- *Deadlines* - Take quizzes and exams on the days they are offered and submit assignments on due dates.
- *Professionalism* – practice using the language, terminology, behavior, and communication of the professional you are preparing to become. This includes writing in complete sentences, using the subject line in an email, starting with a salutation, writing the body of the email in a clear and concise manner using proper grammar, and a proper closing.
- All expectations deemed fit by the Music Education Department, the College of Music, The University of North Texas, and the State of Texas required to grant a degree in music education.
- The materials for this class are chosen and administered with the ultimate success of the students in mind.
- Part of the requirements for this class is to have all listed supplies, including, but not limited to, the Musical Mastery Teachers Edition textbook, the appropriate instrument, mouthpiece & reed, a small locker mirror, and note-taking supplies. Failure to have the required supplies will impact the success of the student and will result in forfeiture of credit for assignments and participation related to said supplies.

Course Topics

- All elements required to teach a young musician.
- How to help a student select an instrument.
- Musical elements that must happen simultaneously.
 - Breathing (proper use of air)
 - Rhythmic Counting
 - Musical Alphabet
 - Basic Music Theory
- Embouchure for each instrument.
- Tone production for each instrument.
- Parts of the instrument, instrument assembly, instrument maintenance and care.
- Transpositions, ranges, and the function of the instrument in an ensemble.
- Specific technical concerns for each brass instrument.

- Aural and visual detection of problems and methods of correction.
- Brands & models of instruments, reeds, mouthpieces, and other equipment used in a band class.

Participation

- Materials – having the required materials and equipment that you need for each class.
- Preparation – having read/practiced/written what you need for each class.
- In-Class Performance – teaching and playing for the entire allotted time on these days.
In-Class Discussion – actively taking part in class discussion, playing sessions, and instructional sessions during every class.
- All interactions in class will be civil, respectful, and supportive of an inclusive learning environment for all students and teachers.
- Cell phones should be stored out of sight unless in use for the class.

In-Class Performance

- Each student will demonstrate and teach instrument assembly and maintenance.
- Each student will be expected to model a characteristic sound on every brass instrument.

Daily Work/Homework

- May include, but will not be limited to, questions on assigned reading, lesson plans, and basic pedagogical understanding.
- Fingering practice ‘quizzes’ can be found on quizizz.com; codes will be given out in class.
- Class participation playing the assigned instruments, discussions, etc.
- Self-guided practice between classes is essential to success in this course.

Assessment- Quizzes

- Quizzes and tests will be taken via Canvas, Quizizz and/or Google Forms
- Fingering quizzes on each brass instrument
- Knowledge of brass pedagogy, including, but not limited to teaching embouchure, instrument assembly, articulation technique, instrument parts, and reading for each instrument.
- Weekly playing quizzes for each instrument
 - Tone demonstration
 - Required scales
 - Required repertoire/exercises - Selections to be taken from anything that you play in class from any textbook, handout, or method book; so, reading, home study, and practice are very important.
- Reading and embouchure quizzes will be given through Canvas, Quizizz.com; codes will be given out in class. Deadlines to complete these quizzes will be firm, so plan accordingly.
- Quizzes will always follow lecture, demonstration, and student lead teaching done in class. Quizzes will include fingerings from Musical Mastery, proper terminology, parts of the instruments, instrument assembly, embouchure formation, & common problems and solutions. *Quiz makeups are given only in the event of a university or Dean of Students approved absence.*

Timely Return of Student Work, Projects and Final Exams

Students are required to turn in assignments on the day they are due according to the syllabus and timeline. Student work will be graded and returned in a timely manner.

Major Assignments

- Project – Assemble and maintain a virtual notebook on your chosen device. This is for your reference and use once you are student teaching/teaching in the classroom.
 - On your electronic device, make a folder for instrumental methods.
 - Make sub- folders for woodwinds, brass, and strings (vocal if you want).
 - Make sub-sub-folders for each woodwind instrument, each brass instrument, and each string instrument.
 - Move handouts over from Canvas into the appropriate folder on your device for this class. You will only be responsible for handouts and materials for this class, but having all your information in one place will help when you need to access it during student teaching and beyond.
- Teaching – Students will be required to create a lesson plan and teach the class at least once during the semester.
 - The lesson plan template is provided.
 - Make three copies of the completed lesson plan; one for the student and two for the instructors.
 - A teaching guide and script will be provided to help you organize your lesson.

Exams

- Mid-term – the mid-term exam will cover *all information up to the date of the exam*. Questions will be selected from homework assignments, instrument quizzes, in class lectures, and information from the required textbooks. The format will be multiple choice and essay questions. The mid-term exam date will be on the course schedule posted to Canvas.
- Final – The final exam will be comprehensive covering *all information through the end of the course*. Questions will be selected from homework assignments, the instrument quizzes, in class lectures, and the required textbooks. The format will be multiple choice, essay questions, & fingerings for all instruments.

Course Grading

Explanation of Grading System

- Discussion Posts: 25%
- Assignments: 25%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Exams: 25%

Grading Policy

- A = 90 – 100
- B = 80 – 89
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = 59 or below

Attendance Policy

- As per MUED policy, students may not miss more than 3 classes in a given semester.
- Two (2) tardies will be the equivalent of 1 absence. Students will be considered tardy if they are more than 5 minutes late.
- University excused absences: It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the appropriate documentation and present it to the instructor.
- At the instructor's discretion, allowance may be made for serious illness, a professional audition, or an interview.
- You will get one week per excused absence to make up any quizzes or tests missed. **Students are responsible to initiate any makeup work.**
- Excused Absences - An absence may be excused for the following reasons:
 - Religious holy day, including travel for that purpose;
 - Active military service, including travel for that purpose;
 - Participation in an official university function;
 - Illness with doctors note or other extenuating circumstances;
 - Pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and
 - When the University is officially closed.
- While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.
- Students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class.

Course Policies and Information for Students

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. See: Academic Integrity LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. See: Student Code of Conduct Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect. See: Eagle Connect LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access. See: ODA LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students See: Spring Academic Calendar Information Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Semester Calendar, Spring 2026 See: Spring Semester Calendar Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so. See: Financial Aid LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course. See: Financial Aid LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates. See: FERPA Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information: See: Counseling and Testing Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit: See: Mental Health Resources Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: See: Student Resources Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others. See: Care Team Link:

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>