

Grove City College Department of Music
~ Applied Trumpet Course Syllabus ~

Drew R. Fennell, Trumpet

email: drew@drewfennell.com

phone: (412) 600-2377 (mobile)

 **OFFICE HOURS**

Office Hours are established at the outset of each semester. Depending on the number of students registered, the instructor shall be on campus one or two days per week. These office hours shall be posted outside the office door (J. Howard Pew Fine Arts Center, Room 63). In addition to posted office hours, individual meetings may be scheduled at by appointment.

 **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to expose students to major aspects of trumpet performance and pedagogy as well as to develop a strong fundamental approach to the instrument. These fundamentals shall serve current and future endeavors at performance as well as teaching, both in the private setting (i.e. private trumpet lessons) and, where applicable, while teaching in the public schools. All students shall be required to prepare materials on a weekly basis in accordance with their individual needs and educational interests. In addition to the standard etude and solo literature appropriate to the individual student's playing level, areas of concentration may include (but are not limited to): transposition, orchestral excerpts, different keyed trumpets, sight-reading, range development, tone production, endurance, flexibility, articulation, and appropriate style and musicality.

Requirements

The final lesson grade for each semester of study shall be determined by a combination of the twelve (12) weekly lesson grades, and the student's end-of-semester jury or, where applicable, the senior recital.

 **COURSE SCHEDULING**

Students may register for half-hour lessons (1.0 credit) or one-hour lessons (2.0 credits). While they may not be compelled to register for one-hour sessions, trumpet students are encouraged to schedule full hours in order to progress through as much material as possible. As advanced material requires additional time, upperclassmen should make greater efforts at scheduling full-hour lessons. In particular, students preparing a recital, in order to allow sufficient time to effectively study the repertoire, should make this a *high priority*.



PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The study of the trumpet is both a physical and a mental occupation, and it requires regular and methodical practice for the trumpeter to be adequately prepared for whatever challenges he or she meets. As such, attention to practice goals cannot be underestimated.

A Student receiving 2.0 course credits is expected to practice a *minimum* of two (2) hours every day in addition to various rehearsals and methods courses. A student receiving 1.0 course credit is expected to practice a *minimum* of one (1) hour every day in addition to rehearsals and methods courses. This applies to all music majors in the trumpet studio – not just performance majors. This is the trumpet student’s “homework.”

Practice should include work in the following areas:

- Appropriate warm-up and tone production exercises
- Scales, arpeggios, and technique development
- Etudes (both lyric and technical)
- Transposition etudes and exercises
- Band/orchestra excerpts
- Solo repertoire



GRADING

The final grade shall be based on a combination of points earned from weekly lesson grades and the final jury – totaling 100.0. For students performing a senior recital, that grade will substitute for the jury, unless they choose, in consultation with the instructor, to perform a separate jury. See below for a breakdown:

➤ 12 Weekly Lessons (60%)	x 5.0 points =	<u>55.0 points</u>
➤ 1 Performance Jury/Recital (40%)	x 40.0 points =	<u>40.0 points</u>

Grades correspond with the following descriptions:

Grade	Point Total Range	Description
A	85.0 & above	The student makes excellent progress, and is always prepared.
B	70.0 thru 84.5	The student makes good progress, and is generally prepared.
C	55.0 thru 69.5	The student makes progress, but preparation is inconsistent.
D	40.0 thru 54.5	The student makes little progress, and is seldom prepared.
F	39.5 & below	The student makes no progress, and is never prepared.

Any trumpet student may request to see his or her grading information at any time. Feedback regarding areas in which the student should improve may also be requested at any time.

 LESSONS

Overview

Weekly lessons should be viewed as would a regular examination in any class. Each trumpet student should prepare his or her lesson material carefully through the week and arrive at the lesson prepared. Practice should be made a *top priority* for all students. Any music major, whether in performing arts, music education, music and religion or music business, stands to gain valuable personal discipline and musical knowledge from an advanced study of his/ her major instrument.

Each trumpet student shall participate in a minimum of twelve (12) lessons per semester – roughly one session per week of the semester. Weeks shall be scheduled off based on the school calendar and other factors at the instructor’s discretion. Students shall receive sufficient notice from the teacher – at least one week ahead of time – of any scheduling changes.

Lessons shall terminate between five (5) and ten (10) minutes before the top/bottom of the hour to sufficiently allow for student travel time between classes. Should the student require additional time to arrive in a timely fashion at his or her next class, he or she should inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Instructor Cancellations/Rescheduling

Regular lessons shall be scheduled weekly, however the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the lesson schedule should that, for any reason, become necessary. In this case, the instructor shall give notice a minimum of one (1) week prior. The student is expected to make an effort to work with the instructor to find a suitable time to move the lesson.

Lessons missed because of absence of the instructor, due to unforeseen circumstances, will be made up at the mutual convenience of the student and teacher.

Student Cancellations/Rescheduling

The instructor shall be notified at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance if rescheduling or cancellation is necessary (emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis). Alternately, the student may switch lesson times with another student if that is amenable to both.

Lessons unavoidably missed due to illness or emergency will be made up when possible, if cancelled in advance. Should a lesson be canceled due to illness or emergency, the student shall be required to contact the instructor (via phone, email or personal messenger) *before* the scheduled lesson.

Unexcused non-attendance of a lesson shall automatically result in a “0.0” being recorded for the lesson grade.

After a fourth unexcused absence, the instructor may assign a letter grade of an “F” or an incomplete. This decision shall be made in consultation with the Chair of the Department of Music and Fine Arts.

Unexcused Tardiness

Unexcused tardiness of more than one-third the length of the lesson – twenty (20) minutes for hour lessons and ten (10) minutes for half-hour lessons – shall result in a *minimum* of a one (1)-point deduction for that lesson.

Lesson Termination

The instructor retains the prerogative to terminate at any time a lesson for which the student demonstrates grossly inadequate preparation, resulting in a "0.0" being recorded for that lesson grade. This is an exceptional and rare consequence.

POLICY ON INSTRUCTIONAL MODIFICATIONS

Students with disabilities, who require reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations.

END-OF-SEMESTER JURIES

All trumpet students shall take a jury examination at the end of each semester. This jury shall be performed for members of the faculty, and, at the discretion of the instructor and faculty members, outside adjudicators. Input of any outside adjudicator is purely for purposes of obtaining a different viewpoint, and shall not count towards jury grading.

Repertoire for the jury exam shall be decided *visa vie* consultation between the student and the instructor. See Appendix B for more detailed information on repertoire appropriate for jury performance.

Students who have given a senior recital are exempt from this requirement, but may still choose to perform a jury.

SENIOR RECITALS

Senior Recitals are to be planned in consultation with the instructor – and students should choose a date and repertoire for the performance as early as possible. Procedural guidelines shall be adhered to carefully, as faults in this area may result in a lowering of the student’s grade (in the category of "Professionalism"). As this is a public performance reflecting not only on the student but his or her instructor and the entire Music Department, students are expected to approach this event with the proper measure of seriousness and formality.



EQUIPMENT

In order to progress, students will sometimes be required to obtain equipment to be used in trumpet playing. Students should budget for these expenses, or make arrangements to borrow this equipment when necessary. The Department of Music owns and loans some instruments as well. The required/suggested equipment includes but is not limited to the following.

Trumpets

Every college-level trumpeter should own a professional-level Bb trumpet. Furthermore, to allow the student to explore a wider repertory, the student may elect to acquire C, Bb/A Piccolo, Eb/D trumpets and/or a flugelhorn. See below:

- Required: Bb trumpet
(recommended: Bach Stradivarius Model 43 “Starbell”)
- Suggested: C Trumpet
(recommended: Bach Strad. Model 39, with 25H leadpipe)
- Suggested: B/A Piccolo Trumpet
(recommended: Stomvi Elite Model, with Bb & A pipes)
- Suggested: Eb/D Trumpet
(recommended: Bach Strad. Model 189, large-bore, with Eb/D pipes)

While the instrument models above are recommended, they are by no means the only options.

Mouthpieces

Each student shall own one standard classical or “legit” mouthpiece for general playing and specifically for use in trumpet lessons. Based on his or her goals, the student may also own mouthpieces for specific uses, including commercial/jazz/big band work, piccolo trumpet playing, flugelhorn playing, etc. Mouthpiece choices should be discussed with the instructor.

Mutes

There is an almost innumerable selection of trumpet mutes – each providing different sound characteristics and different pitch-consistency challenges. See the list below for an outline of the most common mutes:

- Required: straight mute-metal
(recommended: *Denis Wick* or *Tom Crown*-brass/copper bottom)
- Required: cup mute–fiber
(recommended: *Ray Robinson* or *Humes and Berg* “stonelined”)
- Required: harmon mute
(recommended: *Original “Harmon”* brand or *Jo-Ral* Bubble Harmon)
- Required: plunger mute
(recommended: simply, the rubber bottom of a small toilet plunger)

Music Instrument and Accessory Vendors

The following music vendors are suggested for purchasing of instruments and equipment (the student may purchase their equipment from any place he or she chooses):

Volkwein's Music *

138 Industry Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
Phone: (800) 553-8742
www.volkweins.com

Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center *

11151 Veirs Mill Road
Wheaton, MD 20902
Phone: (301) 946-8808
www.chucklevins.com

 **MUSIC/TEXTS**

Each student shall be required to purchase materials based on their particular performance level and musical and educational objectives (see appendices A and B for more detailed information). A student should budget for etude books and solo literature purchases as he or she would plan for textbook purchases for any other class.

Some texts may be available locally. Alternately, the following mail-order music vendors are suggested for the purchasing of music and books:

Hickey's Music Center *

104 Adams Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
Orders: (800) HICKEYS (442-5397)
Phone: (607) 272-8262
www.hickeys.com

Robert King Music Sales, Inc. *

140 Main Street
North Easton, MA 02356
Fax: (508) 238-2571
www.rkingmusic.com

**Please note that neither the trumpet instructor nor the Grove City College Department of Music have any personal or professional interest in any of the above music vendors.*