

MU 131-231-331 - HIGH BRASS PERFORMANCE

Fall 2006

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Office Hours: Posted beside office door.

Welcome to trumpet and horn lessons at Northern Michigan University! The following guidelines and policies will help you get the most out of this experience:

- 1) **Course Description:** Lessons will be given on a weekly basis in TFA 108. The specific day and time of your lesson will be determined at the beginning of the semester. This will be your lesson time for the duration of the term. The length of lessons will be one hour for music majors, and one half-hour for non-majors.

Lesson content will be tailored to the needs of each individual student. In general, lessons will focus upon various aspects of brass playing (tone production, technique, intonation, embouchure formation, breath control, articulation, etc.) and the development of overall musicianship.

Please be on time and warmed-up for your lessons. Knock on the door when it is your lesson time to let me know you are ready. Do not wait for me to finish with a previous student.

- 2) **Materials:** Please bring a notebook to your lessons to write down assignments, notes, etc. You may be expected to purchase several pieces of music/etude books/etc. during the course of the semester. I will try to keep these expenses to a minimum by utilizing whatever music you may already own. If I do ask you to purchase something, please try to obtain it in a timely fashion.
- 3) **Practice:** It is expected that you will be prepared to perform all of the material assigned for each lesson. Performance lessons are the single most important aspect of a musician's education - individual, specialized instruction is indispensable in attaining a high level of technical and musical proficiency on one's instrument. Music majors in particular need to be cognizant of this fact.

In order to progress toward both short and long term goals as a brass player, it is absolutely essential to practice consistently and productively. Music majors who have attained the 200 or 300 level must practice 12 hours per week. Majors at the 100 level must practice 10 hours per week. Other students are encouraged to practice 5 hours per week. These practice times are minimum - more is always better!! Students are required to record all practice hours on the practice log beside my office door.

- 4) **Absence:** If you must miss a lesson due to an excused absence (participation in a University sponsored event, illness, emergencies, etc.), please notify me at least 24-hours in advance. Make-up lessons will be arranged accordingly. Lessons cancelled with less than 24-hour notice will be made up at my discretion. Any unexcused lesson absence will affect your grade.

In the event that I should need to cancel a lesson, I will likewise notify you at least 24 hours in advance, and we can schedule a make-up lesson.

- 5) **Concert/Recital Attendance:** Concert/Recital attendance is mandatory for music majors as outlined in the Music Department Student Handbook. Failing to meet the required number of recitals per semester (the number changes each semester based on the performance schedule) will result in grade reduction -one grade per recital missed.

- 6) **Performance Requirements:** Music majors are expected to perform at least once each semester on a student recital. Secondary/non-majors may also be required to perform depending upon their level of experience. Permission from the studio teacher is required before a student may perform in a recital, and the appropriate paperwork must be filed in the Music Office in accordance with all of the deadlines for student performances.
- 7) **Jury Examination:** All trumpet and horn students are required to perform a jury for the brass and percussion faculty. The purpose of this examination is to allow the faculty to keep abreast of the progress of the student and to offer constructive criticism in areas where the student may be deficient.
- 8) **Grading:** Grading is based on the student's progress during the semester. Students will be evaluated on their attitude and attendance, practice habits and preparation of lesson materials, recital attendance, and jury examination. The final grade will be no more than one letter grade higher or lower than the jury grade.

Passing to the 231 level and all succeeding levels requires a grade of no less than C, a full faculty jury, and satisfactory completion of all proficiencies (please refer to the Student Handbook).

- 9) **Departmental Statement:** Each student is responsible for the synthesis of basic skills/knowledge germane to the art demonstrated via the proficiency exams. Grades generated for any and all courses should not be understood as a given predictor for synthesis process. Preparation for the proficiency exams may require additional study and is encouraged.
- 10) **Disability Service:** If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock (227-1700; TTY 227-1543). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state and University guidelines.
- 11) **Photo Release:** Occasionally, a member of the Music Department may be photographing selected lessons or solo performances for the use of advertising, publicity, or promotion. By enrolling and participating in this course, you are authorizing Northern Michigan University, its agents, employees, and licensees, and their successors and assigns, to use any still or motion picture of you, with or without your name, in any way, or medium for purposes of advertising, publicity, or promotion of any kind. You also waive any right that you may have to object to the use of your picture or name in any publication or medium. Any objections to this release **MUST** be presented to the instructor of this course, in writing, within the first week of the initial class meeting.

I'm looking forward to a great semester! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions.