

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Course Syllabus
Music 131.1: Brass Techniques
Lawrence Wright
610-866-6863 Laright@gmail.com
Music Center Hours by appointment

GOAL OF COURSE- Brass techniques prepares the student to understand, demonstrate and communicate the fundamentals of effective musical performance on brass instruments. The course also aids in the preparation of conductors, composers, and arrangers for dealing with various aspects of brass literature and performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) The ability to demonstrate an elementary level of performance on the trumpet, trombone, and french horn. A student already proficient on one of these instruments will be expected to complete the student competencies on a fourth brass instrument of the instructor's choosing.
- 2) A knowledge of tone production, playing position, care and use of the other brass instruments.

COURSE CONTENT

- 1) Laboratory playing experience on brass instruments from selected methods books, technical studies and ensembles.
- 2) Lectures and readings on various topics such as methodology, teaching techniques, history and current performance practice for brass instruments.

STUDENT COMPETENCIES

By the conclusion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate:

- 1) Proper assembly, basic playing position, care and maintenance procedures for brass instruments.
- 2) The ability to perform with acceptable tone from an elementary method book on at least three brass instruments.
- 3) The ability to function in an elementary level ensemble on a brass instrument.
- 4) The ability to articulate verbally and in writing an intellectual understanding of the techniques necessary for successful performance and pedagogy on brass instruments.

GRADING

Grading will be based on the instructor's evaluation of the student's achievement in two categories of performance:

- 1) Solo and ensemble performances of musical materials assigned in class which collectively count one half of the final grade.
- 2) Written examinations, including a midterm and a final, which collectively count one half of the final grade. **A cumulative failing grade in written assignments will result in course failure.**
- 3) Tardiness by 5 minutes or more will result in a 5% deduction on a quiz grade. Each unexcused absence will result in a 15% deduction on a quiz grade.

REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Regular and punctual attendance.
- 2) Outside self directed practice as needed to complete student competencies.
- 3) Completion of outside reading assignments **with notes**.
- 4) Timely submission of notes from outside readings as indicated on the Brass Techniques Assignments list
- 5) Maintenance of an up to date notebook of material covered in class
- 6) A cumulative passing grade in written assignments.

TEXTS

Provided by instructor
Library reserve readings

Syllabus may be subject to change.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.