

MORAVIAN COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
BRASS TECHNIQUES – COURSE SYLLABUS  
September 2011  
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 the following three categories:

- 1) Playing quizzes of assigned solo and ensemble music will constitute 50% the final grade.
- 2) Midterm and final tests, consisting of both written and playing portions, will constitute 40% the final grade. **A cumulative failing grade in written assignments will result in course failure.**
- 3) Notes on outside readings, submitted as outlined in the Brass Techniques Lesson Assignments, will constitute 10% of the final grade.
- 4) **Each unexcused absence will deduct two percentage points from the student's final grade. Unexcused tardiness exceeding five minutes will deduct one percentage point from the final 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.