MUSC 3602: BRASS TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS, SPRING 2013

Instructor: Dr. Cale Self

Office: HUM 339

Office Hours: Posted on my door

Telephone: 678-839-6268 (Office)

Email: tcself@westga.edu

Course Description: Principles, fundamentals, and techniques of playing and teaching the brass family of instruments, to include the trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba.

Course Objectives:

• To learn and practice the ability to teach the fundamentals of the brass family of instruments to others.
• To obtain a basic and demonstrable playing knowledge of each brass instrument.
• To understand the physical properties of brass instruments and how those properties effect pedagogical considerations.
• To gain a working and evolving knowledge of the fundamentals of brass pedagogy.
• To demonstrate a thorough knowledge in the care and maintenance of brass instruments.
• To foster a desire to seek out further knowledge to supplement and aid in the teaching of brass instruments throughout your career.

Required Texts:


Recommended Texts for Developing Pedagogy:

• Pilafian/Sheridan: The Breathing Gym (book and DVD)
• Pilafian/Sheridan: The Brass Gym (book w/ CD)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance at classes and participation during classes is required of all enrolled students. Since this class meets only one time per week, missing one class is the equivalent of missing two or even three classes in another. For that reason, only one absence (of any kind) will be permitted throughout the duration of this class. A second absence (of any kind) will result in the lowering of a student’s grade by a full letter. Any quizzes or playing tests given during a missed class will NOT be made up and will be given a failing grade. Again, your attendance and participation is vital to your success in this class. If missing a class becomes unavoidable, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance and I will attempt to work something out with you so that you can keep pace with the information.
This course will be focused on three main areas: playing, teaching, and listening. Playing tests will consist of materials assigned by the instructor and performed by the student on a specific brass instrument for a grade. Teaching tests will involve preparing and presenting a lesson involving the teaching of specific brass concepts to a member(s) of the class. Listening tests will consist of written responses to assigned listening. In addition, there will be periodic quizzes and a written final exam. Please note the following breakdown of grading areas:

1. Playing tests 20%
2. Teaching demonstrations 15%
3. Listening assignments 20%
4. Periodic Quizzes 25%
5. Final exam 20%

All written assignments may be submitted to me via email at tcself@westga.edu. Quizzes, playing tests, and teaching demonstrations will be done during class time. All playing tests will be done in my office (HUM 339) and will be recorded. The final exam will be given on Tuesday, April 23rd from 5:30-7:30PM.

Dates:
1/8  Introduction & Fundamentals 1: Breathing (the lifeblood of brass playing)
1/15 Quiz 1 & Fundamentals 2: Care and Maintenance of Brass Instruments (pass out instruments)
1/22 Quiz 2 & Fundamentals 3: Tone Production
1/29 Teaching Demonstration 1 & Instruments 1: The Trombone (Listening Assignment 1 due)
2/5 Quiz 3 & Fundamentals 4: Articulation
2/12 Playing Test 1 (Instrument Switch) & Instruments 2: The Horn (Listening Assignment 2 due)
2/19 Quiz 4 [SHORT CLASS]
2/26 Playing Test 2 (Instrument Switch) & Teaching Demonstration 2
3/5 Instruments 3: The Trumpet (Listening Assignment 3 due)
3/12 Quiz 5 & Fundamentals 5: Technique
3/19 No class (Spring Break)
3/26 Playing Test 3 (Instrument Switch) & Instruments 4: The Tuba (Listening Assignment 4 due)
4/2 Quiz 6 & Fundamentals 6: Flexibility and Range Building
4/9 Teaching Demonstration 4 & Instruments 5: The Euphonium (Listening Assignment 4 due)
4/16 Playing Test 4 & Final Exam review (course evaluations)
4/23 Final Exam

NOTE: All class topics are subject to change. Please be flexible!!!