MUSC 3602: BRASS TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS, SPRING 2010

Instructor: Cale Self
Office: HUM 339
Office Hours: Posted on my door
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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)
- Arban: Famous Method (editions available for trumpet, trombone/euphonium, and tuba)
- Pottag and Andraud: 335 Selected Melodious, Progressive, and Technical Studies for French Horn

Other Recommended Materials:
- A battery operated metronome. Doesn’t need to be top of the line, but make sure you can set it to any tempo, not just increments.
- A digital tuner will help you familiarize yourself with your instrument and its particular intricacies better as well as making you a better ensemble player.
- A digital recording device to record yourself as often as possible. This technology has become very affordable in recent years and is an invaluable tool for helping you get better faster. The tape never lies and will force you to become a more critical listener of your own performances.

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 two absences (of any kind) will be permitted throughout the
duration of this class. A third absence (of any kind) will result in a failing grade for the semester. 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.

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 20%
3. Listening assignments 20%
4. Periodic Quizzes 20%
5. Final exam 20%

All written assignments may be submitted to me via email at tcsf@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, May 4th from 5:30-7:30PM.

Dates:
1/12  Introduction & Basics of Brass
1/19  Breathing: the Lifeblood of Brass Playing (Quiz 1)
1/26  Care and Maintenance of Brass Instruments (Quiz 2 & Pass Out Instruments)
2/2   Fundamentals 1: Tone Production (Teaching Demonstration 1)
2/9   Instruments 1: The Trumpet (Listening Assignment 1 Due)
2/16  Playing Test 1 (Instrument Switch)
2/23  Fundamentals 2: Flexibility & Range Building (Teaching Demonstration 2)
3/2   Instruments 2: The Horn (Listening Assignment 2 Due & Quiz 3)
3/9   Playing Test 2 (Instrument Switch)
3/16  Fundamentals 3: Articulation (Teaching Demonstration 3)
3/23  No Class (Spring Break)
3/30  Instruments 3: The Trombone (Listening Assignment 3 Due)
4/6   Playing Test 3 (Instrument Switch)
4/13  Fundamentals 4: Phrasing (Teaching Demonstration 4)
4/20  Instruments 4: The Tuba & Euphonium (Listening Assignment 4 Due & Quiz 4)
4/27  Playing Test 4 (Instrument Turn-In) & Review for Final
5/4   Final Exam (5:30PM)

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