

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
MUS 149, 152, 352 (Applied Low Brass Lessons)  
Spring 2012 Course Syllabus

Jeff Baker, Adjunct Low Brass Instructor

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of the baccalaureate curriculum, the student will

- Demonstrate the basics of musical performance with special attention to rhythm, tone quality, range, musical phrasing, intonation, and style
- Demonstrate the ability to perform music from different stylistic periods
- Demonstrate the ability to perform music in varied key signatures, keys, and meter signatures
- Demonstrate the ability to perform all major and minor scales in the designated format.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance at the weekly applied lesson is mandatory. In case of illness or emergencies, the student should contact the instructor by phone or e-mail in advance. A lesson cancelled due to severe illness or emergency with 24-hour advance notice may be rescheduled. Lessons cancelled by the instructor will be made up. Absences without notification are not acceptable and can result in a failure (F) for that lesson. Attendance at the weekly studio/ensemble class is mandatory for all students unless excused by the instructor. Attendance at all brass recitals, concerts, and events is expected.

**Practice/Homework Policy:**

The student's progress is evaluated in the applied music lessons throughout the given semester. The amount of expected practice time may vary, but in general a two-credit-hour lesson should require a minimum of two hours of practice per day. One credit hour of study should require one hour of daily practice.

**Scale Juries:**

Scale examinations will be administered during the final week of lessons at the instructor's discretion. Scales must be played two octaves, legato, in sixteenth notes, at a tempo of one quarter note equals 80 beats per minute. The following is a typical sequence by semester of scale studies:

End of 1<sup>st</sup> semester-all major scales; two octave chromatic scale

End of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester-all major and natural minor scales

End of 3<sup>rd</sup> semester-all major, natural, and harmonic minor scales; three octave chromatic scale

End of 4<sup>th</sup> semester-all major, natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales

### **Tune Juries:**

Tune juries will be administered during the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> weeks of the semester at the instructors discretion. During their lesson, the student is required to perform, from memory, one tune in all 12 keys (three different songs over the semester). Each tune must be a minimum of 8 measures in length.

### **Upper Division Jury:**

At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of study, students will be expected to play an upper division jury. If the student fails this jury, he/she may retake the upper division jury the following semester. If the student does not pass their second attempt, they will no longer be able to enroll in music classes.

### **Required and Recommended Materials:**

The student should own the following materials: mouthpiece, metronome, tuner, pencil (with eraser), recording device, mutes and appropriate breathing aids. A metronome capable of subdividing the beat is recommended. A recording device of any kind (digital or analog) will suffice. Students are encouraged to record their practice sessions as often as possible. The quality of the equipment is not near as important as the habit of using it. Students are required to furnish sheet music, solo repertoire, etude books and CD recordings as required by the instructor. Students who borrow materials are responsible for loss or damage.

#### Required books for all students:

#### **Exercises on the Emission of Fundamental and Harmonic Tones of the Trumpet—S. Verzari**

The Complete Solfeggi - Legato Etudes for Trombone/Tuba—G. Concone

#### **Low Etudes for Tuba—P. Snedecor**

#### **70 Studies for BBb Tuba—V. Blazhevich**

Melodious Etudes for Trombone, book 1—J. Rochut *Carl Fischer*

#### **Complete Method for Trombone/Euphonium/Tuba-Arban**

#### Recommended books for all students:

Lip Flexibilities—Bai Lin *Carl Fischer*

60 Selected Studies—C. Kopprasch

The Brass Gym—Pilafian/Sheridan

Daily Routine-The Bell Scales—Bill Bell/Abe Torchinsky ([www.encoremupub.com](http://www.encoremupub.com))

Selected Studies for Trombone/Baritone—H. Voxman

78 Studies for Tuba—B. Grigoriev

A Singing Approach to the Trombone—C. Vernon

Daily Exercises for Trumpet—S. Verzari

The Art of Musicianship-Philip Farkas ([www.thompsonedition.com](http://www.thompsonedition.com))

The Art of Brass Playing-Philip Farkas ([www.thompsonedition.com](http://www.thompsonedition.com))

Introducing the Tenor Clef—R. Fink

Introducing the Alto Clef—R. Fink

40 Progressive Studies for Trombone—H.W. Tyrell

40 Advanced Studies for Tuba—H.W. Tyrell

Arnold Jacobs: Song and Wind—B. Frederickson

### **Calendar of Events:**

All students will be notified of upcoming events via email. During lessons, we will also go over scheduled events. Attendance is mandatory at studio recitals and specified events on the calendar, which includes special performances and masterclasses. If for any reason there is a conflict, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Studio Hour:**

All students will have a studio class every **Tuesday 5:00 pm-6:15 pm**. Attendance and participation are mandatory. A weekly schedule of events and performances will be available in the student's first lesson.

### **Grading Procedure:**

One unexcused absence will lower the grade one level. Three unexcused absences will result in an "F" for the course. Grades are based on lesson performance, attendance at weekly studio/ensemble classes, performances, as well as any required written assignments. If a student is failing the class, he or she will be notified.

#### **Grading Explanation**

- A Superior performance, perfect attendance at lessons, superior participation in ensembles as well as attending outside professional performances. Outstanding musical progress, timely and professional communication.
- B Excellent performance, excellent participation in ensembles as well as attending outside professional performances. Noticeable musical progress, timely communication.
- C Average performance, some participation, little or no progress, problematic communication.
- D Poor performance, lack of preparation, attendance and/or attitude problems. Unacceptable progress, lack of communication.
- F Failure of the class due to attendance, lack of preparation, practice, performance ability or other factors.

### **Jury and Accompanist Policy:**

Students performing semester juries with an accompanist must compensate their accompanist **before** they perform their jury. Students must also own an original copy of their jury piece. If either of these requirements is not fulfilled, at the discretion of the instructor, the student may not be permitted to perform their jury, and the student will receive an "F" for the course.

### **Communication Policy:**

Students must have a working email address and phone number. It is extremely important that the student must check their email in a timely manner and respond accordingly. Clear, concise, and efficient communication skills are a valuable asset if the student is to be successful as a professional educator.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library  
Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

### **Music Department Mission Statement:**

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

### **Student Behavior:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning *environment* (*Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.*)

### **Office Hours and Contact Information:**

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 12:00-1:00 pm

- Times may change, any adjustment will be notated on the schedule on my door.
- Conferences may be scheduled by appointment.

For the quickest response, please call my cell phone.

Campus Email: Jeff\_Baker@tamu-commerce.edu

Personal Email: JeffTBaker@gmail.com

Campus Phone: 903-886-5290

*Cell Phone: 469-417-9404*

Music Building Room 229