

R. Ben Osborne  
Lecturer of Trombone  
Cell – (806) 239-0338  
Email – rbo002@shsu.edu

John McCroskey  
Adjunct Instructor of Trombone  
Studio Phone – (936) 294-1371  
Email – [crosskey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crosskey@sbcglobal.net)

Studio – MUS 326  
Lesson times – Arranged  
Trombone Choir and Studio Class – Mondays 4-5:45pm, M201  
TRMB 1201, 3201, 3202 – Applied Trombone  
Office Hours – by appointment

### **Sam Houston State University Applied Trombone Syllabus**

*Updated 8/15/2017*

**Course Description:** Applied Trombone is a private study course in which the student receives one-on-one instruction using assignments designed specifically to develop each student's performing skill as a trombonist and as a musician. For performance majors the general goal is to be exposed to and prepare for the demands required of a professional trombonist. For education majors the general goal is to be exposed to and prepare for the demands of a professional educator who specializes in the trombone. Applied trombone is the venue for dedicated and aspiring performers and educators to master the arts of learning, communicating, and performing. No matter your career, you will always find yourself in the roles of student, teacher, and performer at various times, and often at the same time. What you learn in applied trombone lessons can be applied to each of these arenas in your field. **Music majors enrolled in trombone lessons must also be enrolled in at least one major ensemble for credit.**

Students are required to arrive at lessons, master classes, and rehearsals in a timely manner, warmed up, and prepared (this means that you have practiced the material, have all appropriate music, pencil, etc. and are ready to play).

Assignments will include technical studies, etudes, solos, orchestral repertoire and chamber music. Each student will be required to perform as a soloist, whether in recital or at juries, at least once per semester.

For 1000 level courses there are no prerequisites, though general music knowledge and an appropriate level of proficiency on the trombone are assumed. Enrollment in 3000-level lessons will require four semesters of 1000-level lessons (or the equivalent credits transferred) and completion of the Barrier Exam.

#### **Communication**

Email is the primary source of communication for this course when making studio announcements and when students have questions for the professor. Students must have an active email account which can be checked regularly. Students who are on Facebook will be invited to join the "SHSU Trombone Studio" group. Students can call or text when needed to inform the instructor if it is necessary to miss a lesson or be late. Email is the preferred method of communication in anything that is not urgent in nature.

## Course Objectives

To become a competent musician, the student must have a strong commitment towards the following specific goals:

1. Facilitate the student's development to the highest level of musical artistry that he or she aspires to and is capable of
2. Attain excellence in technique, tone quality, intonation, rhythm and musical styles
3. Develop reading skill in all clefs: bass, tenor, and alto
4. Gain knowledge of standard literature for trombone and brass chamber music, including pedagogical literature, solo literature, orchestral repertoire, etc
5. Develop skills working as a musical colleague (large ensembles and chamber music)
6. Explore creative outlets as a musician
7. **Commit to developing punctuality and organizational life skills**

In order to meet these objectives, it is understood that students will practice individually 2-4 hours a day, 6 days a week (ensemble rehearsal and lessons do not count as practice time).

**Assigned materials:** When assigned a new book or solo, you have two weeks to acquire it. Check Music and Arts in Conroe or The Woodlands, or order it online. I suggest Hickey's Music 1-800-442-5367. Checking out music from the music library is also an acceptable way to acquire assigned material while you wait for it to arrive.

Notes for each lesson and each week's assignments will be kept on a Google Doc that is shared between the professor and student. It is strongly encouraged that each of you use a gmail account to access the doc, but it is possible using other email applications as well. Please make sure you have access to this document at your lessons.

Please check the SHSU Facebook group page regularly for updates and room changes.

**Required Texts:** These must be in your possession and at *all* lessons no later than the 3rd lesson of the semester. At that point the student will receive a C for each lesson without all of the required books.

### Tenor Trombone

- *Arban's Famous Method for Trombone* – Mantia or Alessi editions only
- *Melodious Etudes for Trombone Vol 1* - Bordogni/Rochut – Edition of choice
- *Clef Studies* – Blazhevich – Edition of choice (required for tenors only in 3201 or higher)
- *Introductory Studies in Tenor & Alto Clef* - Brad Edwards
- *Selected Studies for Trombone* – Voxman
- *Studies in Legato for Trombone* – Reginald Fink
- *36 Studies for Trombone* – O. Blume (**not** the version for F attachment)
- *Lip Slurs* – Brad Edwards

### Bass Trombone

- *Arban's Famous Method for Trombone* – Mantia or Alessi editions only
- *Melodious Etudes for Trombone Vol 1* - Bordogni/Rochut – Edition of choice
- *24 Studies for Bass Trombone* – Grigoriev
- *78 Studies for Tuba* - Grigoriev
- *Studies in Legato* – Reginald Fink (tenor or bass trombone version)
- *36 Studies for Trombone with F Attachment* – O. Blume

- *70 Progressive Etudes for the Modern Bass Trombonist* – Lew Gillis
- *Lip Slurs* – Brad Edwards
- *Low Range Studies for Trombone* – Blazhevich/Vernon

Any other method books and solos used within the course of applied lessons must be an original. Any ensembles used for performance or competition must be purchased/owned by one member of the ensemble. Photocopies will only be made for study at the discretion of the instructor. Please be prepared to start developing a personal library of trombone literature. It will serve you well long past graduation. The music library has an excellent collection of solos and chamber music. It is acceptable to check materials out from the library and use those in lessons *and* in performance. Any copies made by the instructor are acceptable for use in lessons and must be in your possession at *all* lessons!

**Good grief, everyone, please keep everything you need for lessons in your backpack so you have it at your lesson!**

**Required Equipment** (not having required equipment will affect your lesson grade):

- Professional quality large bore F attachment trombone (for tenors) or dual valve trombone (for basses) in good working condition (all repair work should be taken care of as soon as possible!!)
- Clean mouthpiece
- **Proper maintenance equipment (rotor oil, spindle oil, slide cream, rags, cork grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning rod – recommendations below)**
  - Slide Cream – Trombotine
  - Rotor Valve Oil – Hetman 1 or 2; Edwards
  - Spindle Oil – Superslick Key and Rotor Oil (with the needle); Edwards
  - Tuning Slide Grease – Hetman 7
- Tuner – Smart phone apps are fine
- Metronome – Smart phone apps are fine
- All required books and solos.
- Studio binder with handbook, syllabus, assignments, handouts, practice journal etc.

Digital copies of music are not acceptable for lessons. We will mark things in pencil consistently each week.

There will be a book and equipment check at our lesson during the first two weeks of September.

If your instrument is broken or not in complete working condition at your lesson, it will be canceled and an F will be given for the grade. If you contact me ahead of time, we can work out switching times. Fix it!

**Attendance and preparation:**

Lessons will be graded on the basis of attendance, preparation, and responsiveness completely at the discretion of the instructor as follows:

- A+ Excellent, thoroughly prepared lesson (100)
- A Very good, material well prepared (95)
- B Average preparation (85)
- C Below average, material unprepared (75)
- F Unacceptable, no preparation (60)
- 0 Unexcused absence

- Each unexcused absence will be counted as a 0 for the lesson. Upon the second unexcused absence, the student's cumulative lesson grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each unexcused absence thereafter.
- Attendance at studio class and required events will affect your grade.
- Role will be taken at each class/event. Dates and times for required events will be posted as far in advance as possible.
- Students are expected to attend all trombone student recitals, as well as brass faculty recitals. Notice for an excused absence must be provided by email or phone no later than the day prior to the required event and is left at the discretion of the instructor. A doctor's note is required to excuse lessons missed for medical reasons.
- Each student can expect to have at least 13 scheduled lessons during the semester. Lessons are 50 minutes in length.
- **Tardiness** – If a student is late to a lesson, class, or event, the instructor will adjust the grade accordingly.
- Should the instructor deem preparation to be unacceptable, students may be dismissed from the lesson early and given an F for the lesson.

### **Fundamental Checklist**

Part of each lesson will be dedicated to assessing the student's progress through the assigned portions of the fundamental checklist of the student's respective semester of study. It is expected that each student pass off the checklist for their current semester. This will count as 15% of the grade for the semester.

### **Practice Journal**

Taking notes and writing down one's thoughts about time spent practicing is an effective and concrete way to learn. It is strongly encouraged that students maintain a notebook used for recording observations and thoughts about practice sessions, performances, trombone related articles, etc. A practice journal is required for the first half of the semester and will count for up to half of your midterm grade at the rate of hours practiced over hours recommended (12 hours/week is baseline).

### **Studio Class/Trombone Choir**

Studio class and Trombone Choir will take place most Mondays from 4:00-5:45pm in the M201. It will occasionally consist of group warm ups, technique exercises, solo performances, but mostly will encompass full trombone choir rehearsal. Keep your schedule open at this time if at all possible. Any conflicts must be cleared by the instructor. Conflicts with outside private teaching must be resolved. Please plan to teach on other afternoons. Everyone should expect to perform for studio class during the semester. The trombone choir can expect to perform at least once each semester.

### **Written Assignments**

On occasion, brief written assignments pertaining to the field of music and trombone performance/pedagogy may be assigned. The grade for each assignment will be a part of the lesson grade the week that the assignment is due. They may be turned in via hardcopy or via email attachment as a Word document or PDF. We will have at least one written assignment per semester.

### **Midterm Exam**

During the weeks of October 8th and 15th, an entire lesson will be devoted to hearing each student perform by request any number of different exercises and etudes which have been assigned over the course of the semester. Everything assigned up to the date of the midterm is fair game.

### **Grading Structure**

- 50% - Attendance and preparation for applied lessons (includes written assignments)
- 15% - Attendance at studio classes, trombone choir rehearsals, and required events
- 10% - Midterm (up to 50% practice journal, 50% lessons and attendance)
- 10% - Fundamental checklist
- 15% - Jury or recital hearing

### **Extra Credit**

Consideration for extra credit will be made for students who decide to exhibit a creative interest in learning more about performing and teaching in a specific and purposeful manner. Examples: a written report on a masterclass or conference attended, such as the Big 12 Area Trombone Conference, or providing a lesson to someone who has never touched a trombone and writing about the experience. These are merely a few plausible examples. Extra credit may be used at the instructor's discretion to replace an unexcused absence, replace your lowest lesson grade, or applied as *bonus* points to lesson and attendance grades.

### **PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENT**

All full-time students must give university courses first priority over all outside activities such as employment and social organizations. Absences will not necessarily be excused for those reasons. Please make sure employers, fraternities, sororities, etc. understand and agree to this. That being said, one of the university's goals, as an educational institution, is to support each student's endeavor to become a young professional in his/her specific field. Therefore, exceptions to this will be at the professor's discretion and will only be made if the student notifies the professor in a timely and professional manner.

**Smart phones and tablets are prohibited during studio classes, lessons, and rehearsals unless requested by the professor. Just keep them on silent and in your pocket, please.**

### **Additional Information**

All information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced via email. Further University policies regarding academic dishonesty, student absences on religious holy days, disabilities, and visitors in the classroom which apply to this course may be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>. If there is a conflict between information on this syllabus and official university policy, then university policy takes precedence.