

BASSOON STUDIO SYLLABUS

Spring 2018
Sam Houston State University
BSSN 1201, 3201, 3202, 5201

Instructor: Dr. Nathan J. Koch
Office: Music 323
Office Hours: MWF 9:00am-10:00am, or by appointment
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Course Objectives

We will work together to develop and refine your skills as a musical artist and performer through the exploration of solo and orchestral literature from various time periods, and pedagogical exercises and etudes designed to enhance your critical listening and playing abilities. The adjustment and manufacture of reeds will also be addressed in lessons and reed class so that your reeds support and serve your musical needs. The long-term goal is to mold you into an autonomous, informed, discerning, professional musician.

Lessons

Your weekly lessons should demonstrate steady and satisfactory progress on items that we address. To facilitate this progress, you are required to record every lesson for your study and reference. Please listen to these recordings as soon as possible after your lesson, and make detailed notes about the content to guide your practice for the week. Be prepared to give a brief verbal synopsis of the composition and information about the composer for any work you are assigned. You are to be warmed up with your instrument assembled, ready to enter my studio at your assigned lesson time. Should you be unable to attend a scheduled lesson, please make every effort to trade lesson times with another student. If you are unable to trade with another student, there is no guarantee of a make-up lesson.

Please bring the following items to each lesson:

- A notebook dedicated only to your bassoon lessons. Please include the following sections:
 1. Lesson Assignments & Notes
 2. Basic Skills Supplements (Herzberg Scales & Long Tones, Arpeggio Pattern, Vibrato Exercise, etc.)
 3. Piano Scores
 4. Reedmaking
- A recording device (phone is acceptable)
- A pencil
- A metronome and tuner. Your tuner should be the type that sounds a chromatic scale and *may not* be on a mobile device unless you're using a high quality attached microphone. You also must be able to use a tuner and metronome simultaneously.
- A complete set of parts for assigned repertoire (bassoon AND piano parts). Study the piano part (or other accompanying parts) prior to your first lesson on a piece. Listen to multiple recordings of the work and write in cues for the piano part. **If you fail to produce a piano part, and/or demonstrate adequate knowledge of the accompanying parts, you may be asked to leave the lesson and receive a failing grade for that day's lesson.**
- Several finished reeds that play *in tune* with acceptable response and tone, and at least 5 new reed blanks per week. For returning students, the reedmaking requirement will begin the week of **September 4**; for new students, the reedmaking requirement will begin **October 2**.

Attendance

You are expected to show up a few minutes early to your lesson properly warmed up with your instrument assembled. Attendance is required at all faculty, student, and guest artist recitals, concerts, and master classes that involve bassoon on campus. You are also strongly encouraged to attend other events on campus to broaden your experience here at SHSU. Please refer to a partial list on the final page of this syllabus for required events. If for any reason you must miss a required event in the bassoon studio, please contact me as far in advance as possible, and I will determine if the absence will be excused. At all

events, I expect you to conduct yourselves in a professional and courteous manner to your colleagues and professors. Represent the studio well

Missing a required event without my permission will result in the lowering of your final grade. Repeated absences may result in the failure of the course.

Studio Class

Studio class is required of all bassoonists majoring in music that are studying privately with me. The class meets weekly on Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 (occasionally ending a bit later) in room 202 of the music building. Activities will include solo and chamber performances, book/article summary presentations, pedagogical discussions, mock auditions, Double Reed Day preparations, and guest artist masterclasses. You must prepare brief verbal introductions for the first time you perform material in studio class and whenever directed to do so. If you do not have this prepared, you may be asked to leave class and will not receive a grade for your performance that day.

Studio Recitals

There will be at least one studio recital scheduled every semester. All members of the studio are required to perform on at least one recital every semester; performances from memory may be required. Please be prepared to give a brief verbal introduction to your piece that both informs and entertains the audience. This is aimed at developing your audience engagement skills, which enhances the listeners' experience by involving them in the performance process.

Large Ensembles

All bassoon students studying with me are expected to be a member in good standing in his or her respective large ensemble. I am in regular communication with all of the ensemble directors to ensure that this is taking place.

Collaborative Pianists

If a piece you are studying includes piano, you must collaborate with a pianist in at least 1 lesson prior to performing it in studio class, a studio recital, a jury, or any other public performance. You also must rehearse with your collaborative pianist at least twice before bringing a piece to a lesson.

For degree recitals, please direct all collaborative pianist requests to Dr. Ilonka Rus-Edery at ilonkarus@yahoo.com. Working with a collaborative pianist on literature is an essential aspect of your music education and chamber music experience, and they must be involved early on in your study of a piece.

Attitude

Conduct yourself at all times in a positive, professional manner when interacting with your colleagues and professors. This includes showing up at least 10 minutes early to every sectional and rehearsal (including large ensemble and chamber group rehearsals) so that you may be properly warmed up and focused.

Juries

Every Music Major enrolled in applied lessons must perform a jury at the close of every semester. The only exception to this policy is during the semester in which students perform a juried degree recital (i.e. junior, senior, and master's recitals). We will determine exactly what will be performed on your jury in your applied lessons no later than 4-6 weeks in advance to allow for adequate preparation. If you do not perform a jury when it is required, you will not receive a passing grade for your lessons that semester.

Sophomores must pass an Upper-Level Proficiency Jury in order to advance to upper-division applied lessons. Students failing this jury the first time will be placed on probationary status and are given one semester to raise their performance level to upper-division status. Students failing their second Upper-Level Proficiency Jury will be automatically suspended from the music program at SHSU. Failing the Upper-Level Proficiency Jury a third time will be in jeopardy of being dropped from the music program.

The requirements for the Proficiency Jury are outlined in a separate handout that will be given to you at the beginning of your third semester of study.

Degree Recitals

Students who are Bachelor of Music in Performance majors are required to perform both a junior and senior recital. Bachelor of Music with Teaching Certification (Music Education) students are required to perform "half-recitals" no later than the semester prior to student-teaching. A recital that is "junior" in status only requires that the student enroll in BSSN 3202: Applied Lessons, while "senior" recitals require that the student enroll in MUSI 4117 in addition to the appropriate level of Applied Lessons.

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- An "A" grade represents punctual attendance at all lessons, studio classes, and required events; excellent preparation for lessons (including reedmaking requirements), studio classes, studio recitals, guest masterclasses, and other performances; and a professional & positive attitude.

Final Grade Calculation

Weekly Performance Preparation (lessons, studio classes, guest masterclasses, studio recitals) – 65%
Jury/Degree Recital – 35%

I use the following grading scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-90

C = 70-80

D = 60-70

F = 0-59

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic functioning should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at the SHSU Counseling Center (Lee Drain North Annex, telephone 936-294-1720, TDD 936-294-3786) to apply for accommodations. In the event that accommodations are approved by SSD, the student is advised to schedule an appointment with the course instructor in order to present his/her accommodation forms and discuss the arrangements for the accommodations.

Student Absences on Religious Holidays Policy:

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to be absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) a religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first 15 days of the semester or the first 7 days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

BASSOON EVENTS

Spring 2018

Date & Time	Event	Location
2/10/18; 7:30pm	Symphony Orchestra Concert	Concert Hall
2/18/18; 3:30pm	Faculty Recital: Nathan Koch, bassoon & Brian Graiser, percussion	Concert Hall
2/22/18; 7:30pm	Symphony Band & Concert Band	Concert Hall
2/27/18; 7:30pm	Wind Ensemble Concert	Concert Hall
3/22/18; 7:30pm	Double Reed Studio Recital	Recital Hall
3/26/18; 7:30pm	Woodwind Faculty Chamber Group	Recital Hall
4/18/18; 7:30pm	Contemporary Music Festival Recital	Recital Hall TENTATIVE
4/19/18; 3:30pm	Libby Larsen Masterclass	TBD OPTIONAL
4/28/18; morning	Matt Bivens, senior recital	Recital HallTENTATIVE
5/5/18; 7:30pm	Symphony Orchestra & Choir Concert	Concert Hall

Any changes to this list will be made via email. The most up-to-date list of events can be found on the printed performance calendar outside the music office's door, or on the online calendar located at the following URL: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/concerts/index.html>