

# OBOE STUDIO SYLLABUS

Spring 2018

Sam Houston State University

OBOE 1201, 3201, 3202, 5201

Instructor: Season Summers

Office: MUS 323

Office Hours: by appointment

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## **Required Text:**

*Oboe Art & Method* by Martin Schuring

*Oboe Method* by AMR Barret; edited by Martin Schuring

Seniors only: *Beyond Talent: Creating a Successful Career in Music* by Angela Myles Beeching (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

## **Course Objectives**

We will work together to develop and refine your skills as an artist and performer through the exploration of solo and orchestral literature from various time periods and pedagogical exercises designed to enhance your listening and playing abilities. The knowledge and skills required to make reeds will also be addressed so that your reeds will support and serve your musical needs. The long-term goal is to mold you into a professional musician.

## **Lessons**

Your scheduled lessons should demonstrate steady and satisfactory progress on all items addressed. To facilitate this progress, please keep notes on your lesson assignments and bring them every week. These may be kept in a notebook or electronically. Be prepared to give a brief verbal description of the composition and information about the composer for any work you are assigned, as well as program notes for all solo literature.

Please be warmed up with your instrument assembled, ready to enter my studio at your assigned lesson time. Please knock if the door is not open. Should you be unable to attend a scheduled lesson, please make every effort to contact studio members to trade lesson times. If you are unable to do so, there will be no guarantee of a make-up lesson.

Please bring the following items to each lesson:

1. A notebook dedicated only to your oboe lessons. Write your lesson observations here the same day of your lesson while it's fresh in your mind. Please include the following sections:
  - Weekly Lesson Notes – includes lesson observations as well as questions for me
  - Handouts – handouts or worksheets you receive from me and guest clinicians; can also include notes from master classes
  - Excerpts – printed copies of excerpts that the studio has worked on for auditions
2. A recording device (this may be your phone)
3. A complete set of parts for assigned repertoire (oboe AND piano parts/complete score). Study the piano part (or other accompanying parts) prior to your first lesson on a piece. Listen to multiple recordings of the work (at least three) 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, the repertoire may not be taught and you will be asked to leave your lesson. If you have given your score to a pianist for preparation, please borrow another score or make a photocopy for your study and lessons.

4. A loud metronome and a chromatic tuner. You may not use a mobile device.
5. Several reeds that play in tune with acceptable response and tone; music majors must make at least 8 new reeds per week (scraped blanks or finished reeds depending on pedagogical needs). Failure to comply will result in a lowered grade. Non majors enrolled in lessons are expected to have at least 3 working reeds at every lesson.

### **Preparation**

All music majors must practice a minimum of two hours a day, and performance majors are to practice three hours a day. One hour a day is necessary just to maintain skill level and with less than an hour, very little can be accomplished. Reed making is on top of this practice time. Freshman music majors must bring eight new reeds to every reed class. Sophomore music majors up through graduate students must bring eight new reeds to every lesson and two finished reeds to every reed class. Your eight reeds may be at various stages of completion (scraped blanks and/or finished reeds depending on pedagogical needs). We will discuss goals during lessons and reed class for the following reed batch.

### **Attendance**

Show up a few minutes early to your lesson warmed up with your instrument assembled. According to university policy for classes that meet MWF, you are allowed 3 unexcused absences over the course of the semester without resulting in a grade penalty (2 unexcused absences for those that meet twice a week). For your private lessons, you are allowed 1 unexcused absence per semester (2 tardies = 1 unexcused absence). Every unexcused absence after this will result in the lowering of your final grade by 3 percentage points per absence.

Music majors are required to attend all oboe recitals and master classes arranged for our studio, as well as large ensemble concerts and studio class. Advanced notification will be given for required events.

Studio class will meet weekly on Mondays from 2p-3p in the MUS 205. You must perform in studio class at least twice during a semester and these performances will be graded. You may not perform the same thing more than once, unless your pianist is present for one of the performances. There is a sign-up sheet on my office door for studio performance dates. No more than three people may sign up for one studio class so please plan accordingly. You may perform more than twice if spots are available. Pianists are highly encouraged but not required.

### **Assignments**

This component of your grade will comprise written assignments, quizzes, and lesson observations. Written assignments will be assigned during the semester with clear instructions. Quizzes will be administered during studio and reed class. These will be brief and cover material discussed in the previous weeks.

Each semester you must observe one oboe lesson. You may choose who you observe and which week. Please ask your colleague ahead of time for permission to observe a specific lesson date. There cannot be more than one person observing a lesson.

### **Large Ensembles**

If placed in a large ensemble, all oboe students studying with me are expected to be a member in good standing in his or her respective ensemble.

### **Attitude**

Always conduct yourself 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 will be properly warmed up and focused.

### **Midterm**

Midterms will be in your oboe lesson during the week of March 5 and will comprise a complete review of fundamentals. Scales, tonguing, dynamics, and long tones will be included (please reference the fundamentals packet). Details will be discussed during lessons and specific objectives will be clearly laid out.

### **Final**

Finals will be scheduled in your oboe lesson during the week of April 23 and will consist of the same materials as the midterm. Specific objectives will be identified after the midterm and discussed during lessons.

### **Juries**

Every student enrolled in Applied Music 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 recital (i.e. junior, senior, and master's recitals). We will determine what will be performed on your jury in your applied lessons about 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.

Sophomore music majors must pass an Upper-Level Proficiency Jury to advance to upper-division (300-level) status. The Proficiency includes a selected solo, major scales, minor scales (all forms), history of the oboe, oboe pedagogy, and reed making. Students failing this jury 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.

You are required to bring your pianist to at least one lesson each semester for an ensemble coaching on your jury or recital repertoire. Please make sure that you have rehearsed appropriately with your pianist before scheduling the coaching and notify me in advance of the selected date.

### **Grading Policy**

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- attendance at all lessons, studio classes, and required events; preparation for lessons, studio classes, studio recitals, guest masterclasses, and other performances; completion of midterm and final basic skills; attitude.
- An "A" grade represents punctual attendance at required events; excellent preparation for lessons and other events; successful midterm and final; professional & positive attitude.
- A "B" grade represents attendance at all lessons, studio classes, and required events; good preparation for lessons, studio classes, studio recitals, guest masterclasses, and other performances; successful completion of midterm and final basic skills with room for improvement; and positive attitude.
- A "C" grade represents attendance at most lessons, studio classes, and required events; inconsistent preparation for lessons and other events; moderate success on midterm and final; less positive attitude.
- A "D" grade represents missing from most lessons, studio classes, and required events; lack of preparation for lessons and other events; lack of preparation on midterm and final; negative attitude.

- An “F” grade represents missing from most lessons, studio classes, and required events; missing from a required jury; consistently unprepared for lessons and other events; consistent lack of preparation on midterm and final; poor attitude.

### **Final Grade Calculation**

Attendance – 10%

Assignments (program notes, professional materials, quizzes) – 10%

Performance Preparation (lessons, studio classes, guest masterclasses, studio recitals) – 20%

Midterm Basic Skills – 20%

Final Basic Skills – 20%

Jury/Degree Recital – 20%

I use the following grading scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

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. If accommodations are approved by SSD, the student is advised to schedule an appointment with the course instructor 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 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.