



Course Syllabus: Applied Low Brass

College of Fain

AMUS 1541, 2581, 3541, 3581, 4541, 4542, 4561, 4581

Semester and Course dates

Contact Information

Instructor: Chris Vivio, D.M.A.
Office: Enter office # C117L
Office hours: See bulletin board
Office phone: (940) 397-4185
E-mail: Christopher.vivio@msutexas.edu

Course Description and Objectives

- The basic principle of applied lessons is to teach you about the pedagogy of your instrument and how to best perform on your instrument.
- You will study all aspects of music performance, including technique, tone production, tonguing, articulation, and phrasing.
- Music is a communicative art form, not just notes and technique. As many of you will go on to teach younger students about music, it is my goal to incorporate concepts and discuss situations that you will undoubtedly encounter as a band director/music teacher.
- An evolving technical ability on their instrument.
- An understanding of musical phrasing and artistic interpretation.
- A basic understanding of the language of music.
- The ability to evaluate performances critically and coherently.
- An active interest in their craft.
- A concerted commitment toward improvement.
- A continuing knowledge base of pedagogy and teaching techniques on their instrument, as well as all aspects of music education.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance at lessons is required. Twenty-four hour notice is required for canceling lessons, except in cases of emergencies, and will require a doctor's note, police report, court documentation, etc. I am happy to make up lessons that were canceled for emergencies at a time that is convenient for both of us. **Simply not showing up for a lesson, or missing for a non-emergency situation, will result in an F for that week's lesson.** If you are more than 15 minutes late to your lesson, the lesson will count as an unexcused absence. **You are allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. After one unexcused absence, I will lower your final grade by ½ a letter for each subsequent unexcused absence.**

Studio Class:

Attendance and participation at the weekly studio class is required. Failure to attend or participate will negatively impact your final grade.

Grading Policy

Assignments:

You will be given music performance assignments for each lesson. Assignments should be prepared as if you were performing them publicly at the time of your lesson. To take away some of the ambiguity of how lessons are graded, consider the following:

A lesson will be given the grade of A if:

It is obvious that you have prepared the music for the lesson. You are playing the material technically very well and it is obvious that you have given a good deal of thought to the artistic interpretation of the assignment. You exhibit an understanding of the material and can perform at near-performance level. Repeated material from the prior lesson has been more or less solved.

A lesson will be given the grade of B if:

It is obvious that you have prepared the music for the lesson. You are playing the material fairly well, but still have a few technical issues that need to be worked out. You show signs of artistic interpretation, but still need to develop the music a bit further. You know that you could play this better. Repeated material from the prior lesson shows improvement.

A lesson will be given the grade of C if:

It is not obvious that you have prepared adequately for the lesson. You cannot play the material without hesitation. Notes are missed. Your performance is void of artistic expression. You show signs of understanding the material, but cannot execute these ideas through your instrument. Repeated material from the prior lesson shows little improvement.

A lesson will be given the grade of D if:

It is obvious that you have not prepared the music for the lesson, yet somehow you are struggling through and improving during the course of the lesson. You don't know how things should sound. You have ignored key signatures, missed notes, and demonstrate an overall unsatisfactory performance. Repeated material from the prior lesson shows no improvement.

A lesson will be given the grade of F if:

You have an unexcused absence, or you attend the lesson but it is obvious that you have not prepared and no amount of struggling through can improve your performance. You failed to bring in the assigned material and cannot perform in your lesson. In these scenarios, you are wasting both my time and your own and the lack of self-discipline that is demonstrated is disappointing.

As music majors, you should spend a minimum of two hours a day practicing your instrument. Three hours a day is ideal and more is even better. However, the quantity of practice is not nearly as

important as the quality of your practice sessions. Go into your practice sessions with goals to achieve and don't give up until it is evident that you have accomplished something.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.