

**Course Requirements for Instrumental Lessons (AMUS 1481 - Bassoon)  
in the Studio of Dr. Sarah Dunbar**

Midwestern State University, Fain Fine Arts Center #C117M

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Office Hours TBD and by Appointment

**Course Description.**

Private Lessons. May be repeated for credit.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes.** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply basic technical skills related to instrumental area or voice by
  - a. Demonstrating proper technique in assigned technical exercises;
  - b. Demonstrating proper technique in assigned musical repertoire.
2. Display appropriate interpretation skills in the preparation and performance of assigned musical repertoire by
  - a. Displaying the ability to memorize assigned repertoire, as applicable;
  - b. Integrating concepts related to musical style and interpretation in the preparation and performance of assigned musical repertoire, as applicable.

**Required Materials.** You should expect to purchase repertoire and method books during the semester as recommended by the instructor. Students may purchase music at any music store of their choice. Suggestions for places to purchase music include, *Penders* (located in Denton), or online websites, such as [www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com) and [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com). Photocopies will be prohibited. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO PURCHASING TEXTBOOKS FOR CLASS.

- Equipment Checklist:
  - Instrument in working order
  - Several reeds
  - Lesson Notebook (Spiral Bound)
  - Assigned method books and repertoire (originals – photocopies are prohibited)
  - Metronome/Tuner

**Grading.** Students enrolled in applied lessons will be graded on the following criteria:

1. The student's weekly attendance and preparation. *Daily, sufficient, and intelligent practice is expected.* A grade will be assigned for each lesson and then averaged together at the end of the semester.
2. Attendance at weekly studio class (Fridays at 3pm).
  - All students should expect and be prepared to perform in studio class each week.
3. At least one performance at weekly Wednesday Recital Attendance. This must be a solo with piano unless prior approval has been made by the professor.
4. A final jury performance at the end of the semester.

- Literature should be chosen in consultation with the teacher and should be of an appropriate level, commensurate with the abilities of the student.
  - Literature chosen for the performance could be a movement of a larger work.
  - Literature must be performed with piano, unless otherwise approved.
5. Given the individualized nature of applied study and the varying difficulty of repertoire, it is difficult to quantify certain aspects such as the number of solos a student should learn and perform each semester; however, as a generalization, studying only one or two solos a semester would likely be considered insufficient.

*\*Students may be excused from the final performance jury if, 1) they have performed a half or full student degree recital during the semester of which the jury is for, and/or, 2) if the student has given a formal, public recital performance affiliated with the university during the semester of which the jury is for. What constitutes a formal, public recital performance remains at the discretion of the professor.*

*\*\*If the above criteria are not met, the student's grade will be lowered.*

Students will be given individualized music performance assignments for each lesson. Assignments should be prepared to the highest level of your ability. Refer to the following:

**1. A lesson will be given the grade of A if:**

You are prepared to the highest of your ability. You are playing the assigned material technically very well and have given thought to the artistic interpretation of the assignment. You exhibit an understanding of the material and repeated material from the prior lesson shows substantial improvement.

**2. A lesson will be given the grade of B if:**

You are somewhat prepared, but still have clear technical issues that need improvement. You show signs of artistic interpretation. Assignments are incomplete or not prepared to the best of your ability. Repeated material from the prior lesson shows some improvement.

**3. A lesson will be given the grade of C if:**

It is not clear as to whether you adequately prepared for your lesson. You cannot perform multiple assignments and/or appear to be sight-reading portions of your music. Your playing lacks technical fluidity and includes major problems with notes, rhythms, or tempo. Repeated material from the prior lesson shows little improvement.

**4. A lesson will be given the grade of D if:**

You have not prepared for your lesson. Assignments were either not completed or completed at a level much less than your capability. Repeated material from the prior lesson shows no improvement.

**5. A lesson will be given the grade of F if:**

You have an unexcused absence, or you attend but do not bring your assignments, instrument, or equipment, and can therefore not complete the lesson. No practice occurred during the prior week.

\*A student's lesson grade may be lowered due to tardiness. This is at the professor's discretion.

A - 100-90%

B - 89-80%

C - 79-70%

D - 69-60%

F - 59-0%

**Lesson Attendance Policies.** *There is a "no-cut" policy for applied instrumental lessons.*

Students enrolled in applied lessons are expected to attend all lessons. If a student wishes to cancel a lesson, the teacher may make up the lesson at his/her discretion. Students wishing to cancel a lesson should notify the teacher at least 24 hours in advance (with exceptions of death in the family or serious illness). Insufficiently prepared lessons will not be made up, and a student may be asked to leave. Students will be dropped and given a WF after two unexcused absences.

To avoid missing a lesson, students are allowed and encouraged to trade times with a colleague. This schedule change does not require prior approval from the instructor, but please notify the professor to inform them of the change. In the event the instructor needs to cancel, a make-up lesson will be scheduled.

To maximize lesson time, students must warm up (instrument, reed, embouchure, fingers, mind and body) prior to the lesson and knock on the studio door at the lesson time. Set up and pack up your instrument in the hallway to allow for maximum lesson time. Please do not knock early, as you may disrupt another student's lesson. Students are encouraged to express what they hope to cover in the lesson and show an eagerness to learn when they walk through the door. Students should bring all appropriate music, instruments and materials to lessons and classes, including their lesson notebook, which will be used to consolidate all lesson-related information and serve as a plan and record of study.

**Academic Dishonesty.** The student is responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or submitting for credit work done by another person. The instructor will apply the appropriate disciplinary action at his discretion, which may include receiving a zero on the assignment, being dropped from the course with an F, and/or recommending further sanctions. Familiarize yourself with the Student Honor Creed adopted by the MSU Student Government, which opens with the following statement: "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so."

**Conduct.** The instructor expects students to behave professionally and to devote class time to class work. Instances of disruption and inattention may result in a reduction of the in-class work component of the student's grade or being asked to leave. Removal from the classroom will count as an unexcused absence.

**Students with Disabilities.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment which provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. In accordance with state and federal law, MSU provides academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities.

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center (940.397.4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

**Managing Stress.** Students may experience challenging situations that could interfere with learning and interpersonal functioning including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and/or other drug use, concern for a friend or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless, or relationship problems. MSU provides the following resources to students, and you do not have to wait until your situation is a crisis before accessing them:

- MSU Counseling Center (940.397.4618)
- Vinson Health Center (940.397.4231)
- Redwine Student Wellness Center (940.397.4206)

Further, additional resources may be available through MSU to address concerns of difficulty affording adequate food or housing and similar issues. I may be able to connect you to such resources, and anything along those lines that you choose to share with me will remain fully confidential.

In case of an emergency, contact the MSU Police Department (940.397.4239) or dial 911. If you or someone you know faces a sexual assault or domestic violence situation, call the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (1.800.621.8504) for guidance or information.

**Privacy.** Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases, I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

**Social Justice.** Social justice is one of MSU's stated core values, and our classroom is a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The instructor expects that all students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Campus Carry.** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

**The instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus for any reason. The student will receive sufficient notice of any changes. By remaining enrolled in this course, the student indicates acceptance and understanding of the syllabus.**