

Midwestern State University  
Course Syllabus  
Brass Methods MUSC 3161  
**Instructors:** Chris Vivio  
E-mail: Christopher.vivio@msutexas.edu  
Phone: 940-397-4185

**Text and materials:**

Scott Whitener. *A Complete Guide to Brass*

Bruce Pearson *Standard of Excellence Comprehensive Band Method 1.*

Sharp pencils, erasers, and a notebook.

**General Objectives:**

- To provide each student with the skills and knowledge necessary to instruct beginning, intermediate and advanced students in brass wind instrument performance and pedagogy.
- To assist each student in attaining a basic level of performance on trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium and tuba with an emphasis on characteristic tone and technique development.
- To provide each student with a basic understanding of the history, repertoire and performance demands of each of the five major brass wind instruments.
- Topics, discussions, and handouts will address:
  - Harmonic Series
  - Embouchure
  - Breath
  - Tone production
  - Instrument care
  - Minor maintenance/repairs
  - Transpositions
  - Popular methods and studies for each instrument
  - Teaching resources for educators of Brass instruments
  - Anatomy of Brass instruments
  - History of Brass instruments
- To assist the student in the attaining the ability to accept, amend, or reject methods and materials based on personal assessment of specific teaching situations.
- To assist the student in attaining the ability to assess aptitudes, experiential backgrounds, orientations of individuals and groups of students, and the nature of subject matter, and to plan educational programs to meet assessed needs.

**Schedule:**

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Topic:</i>
Week 1	Introduction, Sign out Instruments
Week 2	Playing Position
Week 3	Tone Production/Mouthpieces
Week 4	Trombone
Week 5	Euphonium/Baritone
Week 6	Tuba
Week 7	<b>Test 1</b>
Week 8	Sign out Instruments How Brass Instruments Work
Week 9	<i>no class: spring break</i>
Week 10	Mouthpieces
Week 11	Trumpet
Week 12	French Horn
Week 13	Instrument care
Week 14	Getting Started
Week 15	3 Minute Teach
Week 16	<b>Test 2</b>

**Tests:**

There will be two written tests during the semester that cover written and weekly playing material: Test 1 pertains to high brass, while Test 2 pertains to low brass. Tests will be based on the text and material presented in class, and will test the level at which students have synthesized what they have learned throughout the course of the semester.

**Evaluation:**

MSU University's grading scale and definition is as follows:

A      100 – 90

B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	59 and below

Assignments, classwork, participation	40%
Written Tests 1 & 2 (2 @ 15% each)	30%
Playing Tests	30%

#### **Policies:**

- 1) If you are having trouble with *any* aspect of this course, please see the instructor as soon as possible.
- 2) Professional, adult behavior and etiquette is expected. Be on time, prepared, and ready for work. Work on material related to this course during our meeting time. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. Examples may include routinely entering class late or departing early, eating, and the use of cellular telephones, text messaging, computers, or other electronic devices. In the case of inappropriate behavior, the student involved will be asked to leave and this will count as an unexcused absence from class.
- 3) Attendance is expected at each class meeting as noted in the syllabus. Students are allowed 3 absences (i.e., skipping class), but 5 percentage points will be deducted from the student's semester grade for each unexcused absence beyond the 3 allowable absences (i.e.: four absences and a 93% final grade = 88%, five absences and a 93% final grade = 83%,).
- 4) Assignments or tests that are missed cannot be made up. The only exception to this is if an absence is "excused" with a Provost's excuse from the university.
- 5) Chronic tardiness is disruptive to the class and is therefore unacceptable. The door may be locked if tardiness becomes a disruptive issue.

#### **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 (phone 940-397-4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

#### **Campus Carry**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> 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://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

### **Student 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 the professor will not discuss a students' academic progress or other matters with his/her parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is 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.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

### **Social Justice**

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are 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 professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

### **Students Expectations/Conduct**

Students are required to participate in all class activities. Students are to read weekly assignments, prepare questions, and prepare to answer questions regarding assigned readings. Readings are reviewed in class for clarity and understanding.

Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction or disruption.

College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class.

### **AI-Policy**

We recognize that there are a variety of AI programs available to assist writers. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing is a craft that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice as a writer. However, within limited circumstances, and with proper attribution, AI programs may be used as a tool.