

Beginning Brass

Music 108B

Time: TTh, 1:00-1:50

Room: MUS 109

Instructor: Dan Aldag

Office: MUS B 213

Office Phone: 826-5447

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Office Hours: Tuesday, August 23 from 10-11 and Wednesday, August 24 from 8:30-9:30. I will announce my office hours for the rest of the semester at the beginning of the second week of classes.

Text: Essential Elements 2000, by various. (Hal Leonard, 2004) The books are instrument-specific, so wait to buy your book until you have chosen the instrument you will be playing this semester, and that choice has been approved by the instructor.

Instrument: You may provide your own instrument or use an HSU instrument, which are provided at no cost to students enrolled in music classes. Any student using an HSU instrument who stops attending class or drops the class is required to notify the instructor and to immediately turn in the instrument to the shop. Failure to do so may lead to HSU sanctions and penalty fees. Instruments are stored in a locker (provided at no cost to students enrolled in music classes) in one of the Music buildings. Instruments not being shared with another student may be taken home. **Instruments are never to be stored in vehicles, even if locked, for any amount of time.** Do not let others play the instrument. HSU instruments are never to be used for outdoor events. Never take to/or play an instrument at the beach, in the rain, or in the sun, as UV rays can damage lacquer. All of the above has occurred in the past. We need to avoid such events, as current CSU/HSU budgets provide for no acquisition of instruments used in this class.

Instrument care and maintenance: Those playing valved instruments are required to have (at their own expense) valve oil at each class, and to oil the valves at the beginning of each class, and once each playing hour. Trombonists are required to have slide cream and a water bottle for periodic spraying of the hand slide. All class members are required to have a suitable cloth/rag with the instrument. Any student sharing an instrument and using an HSU mouthpiece are required to provide a proper mouthpiece pouch.

Attendance Policy: You are allowed three absences for any reason throughout the semester. Each absence after that will reduce your final grade by 1/3 of a letter (B+ becomes B, etc.) Extraordinary situations (serious illness, family emergency, etc.) that cause numerous absences from class will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

As a courtesy to others, please come to class on time and do not leave class early unless it is absolutely necessary.

Class Policies: Please forgive me if any or all of the following seems obvious. All of these policies are inspired by situations in previous semesters.

- 1) Please do not talk during class unless you have raised your hand and been called on.
- 2) Thank you for not using cell phones, iPods or other electronic devices during class. If your cell phone rings during class, I will mercilessly embarrass you.
- 3) Please do not play your instrument in class unless directed to do so.
- 4) Please wait until class has ended before packing up your instrument or books.

Anyone who fails to abide by one of these policies will be asked to leave class.

Grades: You will be graded on the following:

- 1) Practice time and practice journals—30% of final grade
You are required to practice at least 75 minutes each week, spread over at least four days a week. Practice time is self-reported in practice journals, which are due at the beginning of class each Tuesday.
- 2) Performance assessments—40% of final grade
These will take place in class approximately every three weeks. Dates for performance assessments will be announced at least one week in advance.
- 3) Class participation—20% of final grade
Playing in class and taking part in class discussions
- 4) Concert attendance—10% of final grade
You are required to attend two concerts that include brass instruments and write a report on each concert. On-campus, free concerts include:
HSU Symphonic Band and Jazz Orchestra on 10/8 at 8 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
Humboldt Bay Brass Band on 11/12 at 8 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
HSU Symphonic Band on 12/2 at 8 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
HSU AM Jazz Band on 12/8 at 8 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
Humboldt Symphony on 12/9 or 12/11 at 8 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
HSU Jazz Orchestra on 12/10 at 8 pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
Other concerts can also be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior approval of the instructor.
Concert reports are due at the next class meeting after the concert. A template for the concert reports is available on Moodle.

Make-up Policy: Performance assessments missed due to illness, family emergency, or university-related travel must be made up within a week of the missed assessment. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to arrange a make-up time.

Final: The final time for this class is Thursday, Dec. 14 at 12:40 pm. The last performance assessment of the semester will be done at this time.

A list of the HSU Learning Outcomes relevant to this course is available on Moodle.