

New Mexico School for the Arts
Brass Lab
Dr. Sean Kennedy
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Course Description

This class is designed to teach brass students the necessary skills for successful performance in any style. This class is a required course for graduation with a diploma from the New Mexico School of the Arts Music Department.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be given weekly assignments to further many aspects of their playing skills. These assignments are tailored to each student to help them grow and further their facilitation on their instrument.

- To create a better fundament level of playing
- To establish a daily routine designed to test the student's daily playing
- To create a thinking, feeling musician
- To establish an artist level of playing
- To help further a student's playing technique
- To maintain a high level of sound production
- To establish effective methods of personal practice
- To help establish a basic tool-set for all styles and genres of playing
- To develop an effective performance practice

Weekly Schedule

Monday brass lab

Tuesday: brass ensemble

Wednesday: brass lab

Thursday: brass ensemble

Friday: brass lab

Teaching Methodology

The methodology of the course is to establish a firm technical basis of brass pedagogy. This will be established from topics presented in class and practice habits presented in class. With these concepts, the student will learn how to practice effectively, and with an idea of expectation. From there the student will be asked to learn and perform weekly etudes that will engage many ideas of playing. Therefore allowing the student to further many skills at once needed for daily playing technique. There will also be technique assignments that are designed to make a student utilize ideas from their many studies of music. These assignments usually involve scalar work or major technical playing ideas. Finally the student will hone their craft by learning and performing etude and solo repertoire.

Course Policies

- Come to lessons prepared. If not then what is there to teach.
- Cell phone usage in this course is an emergency use only policy.
- Bring all materials assigned to you.
- Bring your horn and mouthpiece
- Have your assignments prepared to be played

Attendance

Attendance is required for this course. Each student is required to attend each class. And absence in class, means an absence in materials and learning. If a student must miss class, the student must contact Dr. Kennedy. Proper guidelines are given in both the NMSA student handbook and the NMSA music handbook. Attendance grades can be made up by writing additional listening logs. Please contact Dr. Kennedy for more information.

Assessment and Grading

The grading method for this course is hinged on four major ideas for final grade.

- Weekly participation grade 40%
 - Are you prepared?
 - Are you warmed up?
 - Have all assignments ready
 - Are you answering questions?
 - Do you try?
 - Are you creating progress?
- Studio Class performances 20%
 - Are they prepared as requested
 - Level of perfection
 - Number of correct notes
- Studio Projects 20%
 - How well is it written?
 - Good grammar
 - Insightful
 - Please refer to the written assignments portion of the syllabus
- Assessment 20%
 - How well did the student perform
 - What did the committee think of the performance

Writing Assignments

Every two weeks students will be required to turn in a reflective paper on recordings that the student will listen to outside of the class. The paper must be well written and thoughtful. This exercise is geared to allow students to learn how to discuss, critique, and listen critically to any level of musician.

The assignment will be turned in via Google Docs. Write your observations in a document and share your document before the due date. My email is sean.kennedy@nmsa-ai.org

- 500 Words
- At least 10 minutes of music
- Must be of a recording of a professional on your instrument
- Grammarly correct
- Correct spelling
- Thoughtful
- Honest
- Turned in on time
- These papers will be due every second Friday. The first will be due on September 4th, 2020

. A list of professionals will be provided by Dr. Kennedy. Other professionals can be substituted, but must be discussed with Dr. Kennedy at least a week prior to the due date.

Due Dates for each assignment

- September 4th 2020
- September 18th 2020
 - October 2nd 2020
 - October 16th 2020
 - October 30th 2020
- November 13th 2020
 - ETC

Late Assignment Policy

Late work will be accepted, but for each day the assignment is late, a letter grade will be taken off the final grade. A student will be allowed to recover points lost, by adding 25 words per each day late. Dr. Kennedy can give exact numbers of how many days late, and how much to add to an assignment if needed.

For late composition work, time must be added to make up for lost points. 15% of the assigned time must be added per day late. For example, 60 seconds would add 9 additional seconds per day late and 30 seconds would add 4.5/5 seconds per day late.

Assessments

There will be playing assessments at the end of each trimester. Each will consist of technical and repertoire requirements. The expectations of each assessment will be:

Trimester 1 – TBD

Freshmen

- All major scales
- All major arpeggios
- Natural minor scales
 - Major Arpeggios
 - Minor Arpeggios
- All State Etudes
 - Solo

Sophomores

- All major scales (memorized)
- All minor scales (memorized)
- All major arpeggios(memorized)
- All minor arpeggios (memorized)
 - Diminished Arpeggios
 - Augmented Arpeggios
 - 7th chord arpeggios
 - All State Etudes

- Solo

Trimester 2 – TBD

Freshmen

- All major scales (memorized)
- All major arpeggios (memorized)
- Natural minor scales (memorized)
- Chamber piece with peers

Sophomores

- All major scales (memorized)
- All minor scales (memorized)
- All major arpeggios (memorized)
- All minor arpeggios (memorized)
 - Diminished Arpeggios
 - Augmented Arpeggios
 - 7th chord arpeggios
- Chamber piece with peers

Concerts

There are 4 mandatory concerts this school year, that each aligns roughly with the end of a trimester. The labs classes will be involved in some capacity on the first two concerts, and the last concert will include a wind ensemble performance.

Fall Concert

Date: TBD

Labs Feature Concert

Date: TBD

Winter Concert

Date TBD

Spring Concert

Date: TBD

Arts Spring

Date: TBD