

MUSI 3131: Brass Methods I Syllabus
Spring 2026
TH 9:30-11:30
FAC 1221

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy McBain

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Office Hours: : Mon 9am, Tues 10am, Fri 1130 (other times available by appointment; subject to change)

Course description: Instruction on high brass instruments for music majors. Includes fundamentals of performance, essential pedagogy, maintenance of instruments and materials and literature.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to perform novice level material on trumpet and horn.
2. Demonstrate ability to troubleshoot brass pedagogy issues commonly seen in secondary school band programs.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of standard equipment used to start beginning brass players and step-up instruments.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamentals of brass playing (e.g. posture, respiration, harmonic series, flexibilities, tone production, finger dexterity, articulation, vibrato) and instrument maintenance.

Required Materials

- 1) Essential Elements Book (will be provided with instrument check out)
- 2) Instruments to be checked out for trumpet, horn, and mouthpiece
- 3) Pencil and Staff paper

Grade Weighting

Attendance	15%
Assignments/Playing Videos	85%

Grading Scale A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 0-59%

Methods for Evaluating Outcomes: Students will be evaluated through quizzes, homework, and exams.

Methods of Instruction: Meetings will largely consist of individual and group participation activities. Instructional methods will also include listening examples and outside practice.

Provisional Course Schedule (subject to change) Assignments due on Tuesdays, class on Thursdays

Wk 1 Tues. Jan. 13 Check out Instruments for Block A
 Thurs. Jan 15 Syllabus, Intro to High Brass/Concepts/Fundamentals

Wk 2 Thurs. Jan 22 A instrument day 2

(Census Date Monday Jan 26th)

Wk 3 Tue. Jan 27 Video assignment #1 due
 Thurs. Jan 29 A instrument day 3

Wk 4 Tues. Feb 3 Video assignment #2 due
 Thurs. Feb 5 A instrument day 4/ Check in/out instruments

Wk 5 Feb 10 Assignment due
 Feb 12 TMEA – no class – lecture/activity to be posted on Canvas

Wk 6 Feb 17 Video assignment # 3 due
 Feb 19 B instrument day 2

Wk 7 Feb 27 Video assignment # 4 due
 Feb 29 B instrument day 3/Check in instruments for Block B

**** Attendance Policy:** Your attendance is expected at each class. Excused absences require written documentation and are granted by the instructor. Absences due to illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity will be excused with proper documentation. Please give your written documentation to the instructor no later than one week after the absence. The excused absence must be documentable and verifiable in order to be considered for an excused absence, which is the sole decision of the instructor.

**** Due Dates and Make-up Work Policy:** All assignments are due on the days indicated. Late assignments will not be accepted, and no credit will be given for assignments, quizzes, or exams not turned in due to *unexcused* absences. At the instructor's discretion, absences may be considered *excused* only for **legitimate, documented reasons** (serious illness, family emergency, etc.). In cases of *excused absences*, any outstanding assignments are due at the following class period. Missed assignments **must be made up within one week of the absence**. In all cases, students who must miss class should inform the instructor as soon as possible prior to the absence.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is not permitted at all. The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must create collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

Syllabus Information

A syllabus is a statement of intent by the course instructor to clearly explain what a student must do and the timeline for such tasks to complete the course. A syllabus protects students from arbitrary or untimely changes in course requirements and due dates.

UT Tyler faculty shall provide students with a course syllabus in the Syllabus Module within Canvas (UT Tyler's Learning Management System). Faculty may also distribute syllabi in class if desired. Within the Syllabus Module, faculty provide students with their contact information and course-specific information. Undergraduate and Online Education staff will update the Student Resources and University Policies and Information pages in the Syllabus Module each semester. Undergraduate faculty are also required to provide their department/school with their syllabi for posting on the UT Tyler website as required by HB 2504. In the syllabi provided to the department, faculty may note that Student Resources and University Policies and Information are in Canvas.

Syllabi for concurrently taught undergraduate and graduate courses (e.g., CENG 4314/5314) must clearly describe the different expectations of graduate students that are substantively and progressively more advanced than those of the undergraduates. The delineation of expectations can occur in a separate graduate syllabus or a combined syllabus.

Each syllabus MUST contain the following minimum information.

1. Instructor name, office, phone, and email contact
2. Office hours (3 hours minimum per week, plus by appointment)
3. TA Contact (if appropriate)
4. Course Overview
5. Student Learning Outcomes
6. Required Textbooks and Readings and Recommended (if applicable)
7. Special Course Notes (e.g., external websites or resources required, proctoring requirements, field trips, etc.)
8. Assignments with weights/point values and grading scales. Brief descriptions of significant assignments are required.
9. Late Work and Make-Up Exam expectations
10. Attendance policy (optional)
11. Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

The following information is provided within the Syllabus Module related to Student Resources and University Policies and Information.

Student Resources:

Faculty can update student resources to provide additional supports appropriate for each course.

Resources to assist you in the course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)

- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Student Business Services](#) (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

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Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when all of the following conditions are met*: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the

rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.