

The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 3128: Instrumental Seminar for Vocal Majors, Fall 2026

Course day and time: **3:30-4:25 TR** FAC 2006

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 903.521.6825--email: jemge@uttyler.edu

Office: FAC 2023--Student Office Hours: 11-12MWF, 10-12TR or by appointment

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 3128 is a gentle and introductory-level course intended to give vocal music education majors a cursory look at performance requirements and techniques in woodwind, brass, and percussion. The goal behind this class is for future choral directors to have a basic conception of what is required to perform the instruments that they one day may conduct in accompaniment, choir with orchestra, pit orchestra, or other ensembles involving instruments.

PRE-REQUISITES: Upper-division standing as a vocal music education major.

CO-REQUISITES: none.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Text is available for free by the instructor (owned by UT Tyler); only write in these books in pencil.
 2. One clarinet or saxophone reed, dependent on choice of instrument by student
 3. One mouthpiece brush and bottle of reed/mouthpiece sanitizer;
 4. One pair of concert snare drum sticks;
- One pair Yolyoo (or equivalent) blue medium-hard yarn marimba mallets
approximate cost of materials: \$45

ATTENDANCE: All students should attend all classes; this creates habits that make you dependable and employable. You are counted as attending if you arrive no later than 3:40, have your materials with you, are participating, do not wear earbuds or headphones, and are not using your phone. To encourage good attendance habits, early, I have an attendance policy. Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Students are allowed two absences without the final grade being affected. Each absence, starting with the third, will lower the semester average by two points. The instructor retains the sole right to determine whether an absence is of an emergency nature that would not count towards the two allowed absences; emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. Student participation in UT Tyler-sponsored trips (absences associated with a UT Tyler course in which the student is enrolled) do not count towards the two allowed absences. Students who are habitually tardy will be counseled privately. In the case of chronic tardiness, the instructor reserves the right to reduce the final grade of those students who are habitually and significantly late. HOWEVER, if you are legitimately sick, DO NOT COME TO CLASS. For the well-being of both you and the class, you must go to the university clinic or a doctor. After an absence for illness, I must see a note stating you were seen by the university clinic or your own private physician, and cleared to return to class.

HYGIENE: As we still have Covid-19 among us, extra precautions are in place for the entire semester. I ask all students to hand sanitize upon entering the class; a hand sanitizing bottle/station is located at the door to the classroom. Even though the state of Texas forbids public universities to require a mask when indoors, I encourage everyone to wear a mask in crowded environments and to receive the free Covid-19 vaccination.

STUDENT DRESS AND CONDUCT: Pajamas or sleep pants are prohibited as dress in this class. Any recording--video and/or audio--of any portion of lectures without express prior approval of instructor is strictly forbidden, and violators will be asked to drop the class and referred for disciplinary proceedings. Students must avoid wearing strong perfumes/after shave in rehearsal, as they can easily trigger allergies. Personal grooming and hygiene are important in group settings, because students must sit for a long time near each other. Students with noticeable body odor will be asked to leave class and charged with an absence. Do not use smartphones during class unless you are directed as a class to do so.

GRADING:

- 60% Three playing exams (exercises; scales and long tone/buzzing [rolls and rudiment for snare drum])
- 20% written midterm exam
- 20% written final exam

GRADING SCALE: 90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 60-69% D Below 60% F

Student Learning Outcomes

By completing MUSI 3128 the vocal music education student should be able to:

- *Discuss a very basic overview of the technical capabilities of a brass, woodwind, and percussion instrument;
- *Perform two major & minor scales on a woodwind, brass, and percussion keyboard (three rudiments on snare);
- *Describe a very basic overview of the tonal characteristics of a brass, woodwind, and percussion instrument;
- *Demonstrate and describe in writing assemble and disassembly of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments;
- *Demonstrate and describe in writing basic maintenance of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments;
- *Compare and contrast articulation, use of air, and holding positions of woodwind, brass, and percussion

Resources for Students

The University of Texas at Tyler has numerous policies and resources regarding deadlines, student assistance, academic information, and your rights as a student.

For MUSI 3128, these policies can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Instrumental Seminar for vocal Majors: Tentative Course Outline

August 25, 27 Course Introduction; choose woodwind instrument; assembly and maintenance; fundamental; mouthpiece

September 1, 3 Air; Long tones; warmup; articulation; one octave range technique

September 8, 10 Air; warmup; 1.5 octave range technique (Census Date)

September 15, 17 Air; warmup; 1.5 octave range technique; one major and one minor scale slurred and tongued

September 22, 24 Air; warmup; 1.5 octave range technique; one major and one minor scale slurred and tongued

September 29, October 1 Choose brass instrument; assembly/maintenance; fundamental; mouthpiece; **Playing exam #1**

October 6, 8 Mouthpiece buzzing; warmup; introduction to valve pedagogy; P5 range technique

October 13, 15 Mouthpiece buzzing; warmup; P8 range technique; articulation; **Written Midterm Exam**

October 20, 22 Mouthpiece buzzing; warmup; lip slurs; Arban patterns; one major/minor scale slurred or tongued

October 27, 29 Mouthpiece buzzing; warmup; lip slurs; Arban patterns; one major/minor scale slurred or tongued
(October 30, last day to withdraw)

November 3, 5 Introduction to percussion; parts/maintenance; fundamental stroke/holding position; **Playing Exam #2**

November 10, 12 Snare technique, strokes, double-bounce; three rudiment patterns

November 17, 19 Snare technique; three rudiment patterns; intro to marimba; mallet and standing position; two scales

(November 21-29 Thanksgiving Holiday)

December 1, 3 Three snare Rudiments; Rolls and tremolos; two scales on marimba; **Playing Exam #3**

Probable Final Exam day/time: Thursday, December 10, 3:30