

Texas A&M University - Commerce Department of Music
MUSIC 152-211, 352-211 APPLIED BASSOON

Todd A. Goranson, Instructor

Music Building 119

886-5302

Todd_Goranson@tamu-commerce.edu

Office Hours: Posted Each Semester

Basic Information

Lesson Time: To Be Arranged

Studio Class Time: TBA

Goals and Objectives

This course will provide instruction in standard performance practice for the bassoon as well as pedagogical techniques and standard literature. Students will improve technical proficiency and musicality through the study of repertoire for the instrument, as well as a variety of scale, chordal and tonal studies. This course will also instruct students in the areas of music history and theory by the study of music, composers, and relevant performers. The course of study will encompass classical, contemporary and multiethnic musical traditions. All students will be required to display some degree of ability in improvisation. This course will present students with the opportunity to show progress on the instrument through performance. A significant emphasis will be placed on the understanding of bassoon reeds, including how to make and adjust them. Beginning in the Spring 2007, all 152 and 352 students will be required to play their juries on reeds of their own making.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to attend all scheduled lessons, classes, and events as assigned by the instructor. Attendance is required for all on-campus recitals given by members of the instrumental faculty. Attendance is also required for all bassoon recitals, bassoon studio recitals, and major ensembles featuring the bassoon. Excused absences must be approved in advance by the instructor. If a student must miss a lesson due to a schedule conflict and knows this in advance, he/she should make an effort to switch lesson times with another student if possible. Medical excuses and university-sponsored trips are acceptable reasons for missing lessons. Unexcused absences are not rescheduled. ***Students are expected to come to their lessons prepared, warmed-up, on-time, and with all required materials.*** One unexcused absence may, at the discretion of the instructor, be made-up through the satisfactory completion of a research project. An unexcused absence that is not made-up will result in a lowered letter grade of one letter.

As university email will be the primary mode of communication between class meetings, all students should check their university email accounts at least

four times per week. The student will be responsible to have read any communications received at least 48 hours in advance of an event. All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

Required Materials

Students are expected to have materials necessary to perform for their lesson. This includes instrument in good repair, reeds, reed tools, cane, bocals, ligatures, books, sheet music, notebook, metronome, tuner, and any other necessary equipment.

Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the presentation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Schedule of Activities

All music majors are required to perform publicly in a solo or chamber setting at least once per semester. This performance may include a studio class, open recital, or closed recital. Required activities will be posted via email and on the studio website with as much advance notice as possible.

Lesson Grading/Criteria

Students are given a weekly grade for lessons. Each assignment from the previous week will be recorded and graded for preparation and performance. Weekly grades are open for review by the student at all times during the semester. Students can review the grades at the end of the semester. Generally, 20-25% of a weekly lesson grade is determined by the students preparation of scale & arpeggios studies, with the remainder determined by preparation of other assigned materials (etudes, repertoire, etc.) Students can review the grades at the end of the lesson, by appointment, or during office hours. Each student should have 14 lesson grades at the end of the semester. The overall grade for the semester will be based on an average of the weekly lesson grades and activity attendance (60%), jury grade (10%), and over-all achievement based on the following model (30%):

“A” Grade

1. 2 full length works approved by the instructor, prepared to performance level.
2. 10 etudes prepared to assigned tempo.
3. Scales/modes prepared to assigned tempo

“B” Grade

1. 2 full works, approved by the instructor, prepared to performance level.
2. 7 Etudes prepared to assigned tempo.
3. Scales/modes prepared to assigned tempo.

“C” Grade

1. One work approved by the instructor, prepared to performance level.
2. 7 etudes prepared to assigned tempo.
3. Scales/modes prepared to assigned tempo.

(Anything falling below this minimal level of commitment to lessons will be given an “F” for this portion of the grade.)

To receive a passing grade, ALL students must:

1. Attend lessons at scheduled times.
2. Perform in a semester jury according to the student handbook.
3. Participate in at least one public recital performance or masterclass per semester.
4. Be in attendance for studio class, bassoon recitals, and required events.
5. Complete the mandatory research assignment.

Senior Recital Criteria

Each student will perform at least one senior recital prior to completion of their degree. All music for this recital will be approved by the instructor. Effective August 2007, the student will perform the entire program for the instructor and at least one other member of the woodwind faculty prior to the public performance. This performance should take place at least 30 days before the scheduled public performance. At this time, the faculty will determine whether the student may proceed with the public performance (based on a pass/fail grade). After a satisfactory recital hearing, the student may proceed with the recital performance, and a letter grade will be assigned based on the public performance. In the event of an unsatisfactory pre-recital hearing, the student will postpone the public performance until after he/she passes a pre-recital hearing with adequate time before the public performance. The measure has been put in place to protect the performer and to ensure that full preparation has been made before putting the program before the general public.

Students requiring accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5835.

