

# Applied Trombone Syllabus

Western Michigan University

School of Music

Fall, 2011/Spring, 2012

**Instructor:** Dr. Steve Wolfinbarger

**Studio:** Room 1420

**Studio phone:** 269 387-4699

**E-mail:** wolfinbarger@wmich.edu

## Private Study

Since progress on your applied trombone is one of the most significant parts of your musical education, please use the following criteria to judge your own development (based in part on Doug Yeo's "*What Makes a Good Student?*"):

- Do you have the desire and will to improve? Do you go the extra mile to prepare material?
- Are you self-motivated? Do you practice 2-4 hours *daily* at least six days a week?
- Do you arrive punctually for lessons?
- Are you warmed up and ready to play for lessons?
- Do you view each lesson as a *performance*?
- Do you listen to recordings or review piano or conductor's scores for assigned music?
- Do you treat your applied professor with respect? Do you accept suggestions and criticism gracefully and non-defensively?
- Do you make excuses when you play poorly or simply say that you're unprepared?
- Do you inspire your peers to be better players?
- Do you realize that you have lots to learn from ALL your peers, regardless of where you sit in the section?
- Do you attend both area recitals and your peer's recitals?
- Do you keep your instrument in good working order?
- Do you seek out opportunities to play trombone in a variety of musical ensembles?
- Do you make an effort to hear live professional performances?
- Do you feel as if you've been *cheated* when, in ensemble auditions, your professor places you lower than you feel you deserve or do you simply say that you must have not play as well as some others?
- Do you demonstrate a cooperative, cheerful attitude when working with peers in ensembles?
- Do you seek out competition opportunities based on the potential for financial reward or on their educational benefit?
- Are you willing to delay present pleasures in order to secure future rewards?
- Do you use technology in your daily practice routine? Do you record yourself?
- Do you immediately purchase mutes and music when needed or borrow materials from others?

## Required Materials

- Notebook for lesson assignments and notes;
- Date book planner or PDA;
- Metronome and tuner;
- Trombone accessories, including slide grease, lubricant system, spray bottle, a good quality straight and cup mute (other mutes as needed), pocket dictionary, and music (assigned at first lesson).

## Studio Performance Requirements

- See the Trombone Studio Requirement Outline for scale and arpeggio requirements.
- Each student is responsible for knowing the information on the "Brass and Percussion Jury and Performance Requirements" form, outlining yearly jury and hearing requirements.
- Scale requirements must be performed TWO octaves, range permitting.
- Graduate students are *required* to present a jury and perform a solo on an area recital each semester. Undergraduate non-performance majors are *encouraged* to perform a solo on area recital at least once during the semester, while undergraduate performance majors are *required* to perform.

## **Studio Policies**

- Students may be dismissed from a lesson if unprepared.
- Students are required to purchase materials from the *required materials* list (see p.1).
- Music or materials can be borrowed from the instructor *for one day only*. Students who return material late or in damaged condition will not be allowed to borrow again. Anyone not returning material by the end of the semester may receive an “I” or a lower grade. Anyone choosing to copy material for future use will be expected to purchase an original copy.
- Studio classes and area recitals are **NOT** optional events. Attendance will be taken at each, and absences will result in a lowered applied lesson grade (see Weekly Grade Average under Final Grade).
- Studio members are **REQUIRED** to attend all recital performances by fellow studio members and recitals and clinics by guest trombone artists. Attendance will be taken at each event.
- Your instrument must be clean and kept in good working order at all times. Each case must contain a pencil, slide lubricant system, lubricants for the tuning slide and valve, and a mini screwdriver. At each lesson you must bring your instrument, all assigned music, mutes for assigned music, a pencil, your lesson notebook, and a pocket dictionary.
- When the instructor is absent due to university business, students *may* be assigned to meet with the trombone graduate assistant in either a clinic, master class, or a private lesson.
- No lesson absence will be rescheduled unless 24 hour advance notice is given or there is an accident or illness. Lessons will NOT be rescheduled due to a lack of practice time.
- Dates of various trombone events will be posted on the studio web site, which can be found at <http://www.wmich.edu/music/trombone/index.html>. It is your responsibility to check the website weekly for a list of studio classes, guest artist events, and other updated information.

## **Final Grade**

- The final grade will be determined as follows:
  - Weekly grade average: 60%
  - Studio requirements: 10%
  - Jury/Hearing: 10%
  - Other: 20%
- If an item listed above is not required of a student in a given semester, then that percentage of the final grade will be added to the weekly grade percentage.
- **Weekly Grade Average**
  - The majority of the final grade will be based on the weekly lesson grade average, determined mostly from etude assignments performed at most lessons. *Students may be dismissed from lessons if unprepared, and an appropriate grade will be given for that lesson.* Absences will also figure into the weekly grade average. Each student will be allowed one unexcused *attendance* absence per semester without penalty. After that a letter grade of “E” will be recorded for each lesson missed. In addition, since guest artist and student trombone recitals, guest clinics and studio classes are required attendance, students with an unexcused absence will receive an automatic “E” for each event missed. It will then be averaged into the final weekly grade average. A list of required events is shown at the end of this syllabus.
- **Studio Requirements**
  - Studio requirements must be completed by the first week of November or the lesson prior to spring break, depending on the semester (see the “Jury and Performance Requirements” sheet to determine exact requirements). Semester studio requirements must be passed before a student will be allowed to register at the next level the following semester.
- **Jury/Hearing**
  - Juries or hearings are not required every semester. See the “Brass and Percussion Area Jury and Performance Requirements” for additional information.

- **Other**
  - This may include attitude, punctuality, extra credit work, quality of an area recital performance, area recital attendance, participation in trombone choir, and semester assignments (i.e., recital program notes, record reviews, reading).
  - Students are required to turn in two Applied Music Report Forms to the professor at the end of each semester. Templates are available at [www.wmich.edu/mus-history/appliedreport.doc](http://www.wmich.edu/mus-history/appliedreport.doc). A grade of “I” may be given if the sheets are not turned in, typed and in proper form.

### Practice

- *Each student should expect to have all notes and rhythms perfectly prepared for lessons so musical detail can be addressed. This will typically require between 2-4 hours of daily practice.*

### Trombone Choir

- All full time undergraduate applied trombone students are required to enroll in trombone choir during the spring semester. Graduate students are required to play but are not required to register for credit. The ensemble typically meets either on Sunday or Tuesday nights, and students are expected to reserve that block of time. Trombone choir may also meet during the fall semester for no credit.

### Performance Preparation /Accompanist

- Jury or Area Recital Performance
  - Each student is required to provide his/her accompanist with the required music no less than six weeks before a performance, and rehearsals must begin no less than two weeks before a performance. A minimum of two rehearsals with the pianist will be REQUIRED for any jury or area recital performance. Lack of funds must NOT be a factor in determining the adequate number of rehearsals or the proper accompanist to hire for a performance. Students will NOT be allowed to perform unless the instructor has observed at least one rehearsal.
- Solo Recitals/Rehearsal Timetable
  - Music should be selected a *minimum* of one semester (16 weeks) prior to the recital, and the accompanist should receive the music at least 12 weeks before the scheduled recital date. Rehearsals must begin no less than eight weeks before, and the recital must be performance-ready for the hearing three weeks prior to the recital.

### Non-University Performance Opportunities

- As a trombone student, you are a representative of WMU and of the instructor’s teaching. Therefore the instructor must know about any auditioning, non-university performing, and study with any other teacher. You may discuss these opportunities with the applied instructor as they relate to your study and progress as a player.

### Letters of Recommendation

- To ensure that letters arrive on time and to allow adequate time for them to be written, please keep in mind that a *minimum* of three weeks is required for completion of any letters of recommendation. In addition, readers will assume that a confidential recommendation is frank, and almost no one will place much value in a non-confidential letter. Therefore the instructor will complete a letter *only* when the student agrees to waived the right to inspect the contents of the letter.

### Outside Reading/Extra Credit Work

- Students are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the International Trombone Association Journal, the professional journal for trombonists worldwide. The minimal cost will allow each student to stay abreast with current pedagogical techniques and information related to the trombone.
- A paper on the history and development of the trombone is **extra credit** for all students. It should be typed, in proper form, and should include a title page, footnotes, and bibliography. A minimum of five sources is required. It should be at least five pages long.

### Other

- The instructor reserves the right to change or revise any part of this syllabus during the semester.