MUEN 1135: Brass Ensemble
Fall Semester 2011
2:00 – 3:15 Monday & Friday
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi – PAC-306
Dan T. Sipes, Instructor
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Office Hours:
M – W – F: 1:00 – 2:00 PM
T – TH: 11:00 – Noon

If these hours do not fit your schedule, please call or e-mail me and we will find a mutually agreeable time. Because of other commitments, I may not always be available during posted hours. Please leave me a note.

Course Description:
Personal musical and creative growth is the overriding goal of the TAMUCC Brass Ensemble. Whether one’s goal is to teach, perform, create new works, or to develop as an artist and musician while pursuing an unrelated course of study, the TAMUCC Brass Ensemble serves an important aesthetic and social role. The selection, rehearsal, and performance of a wide range of music is intended to challenge ensemble members aesthetically, musically, and intellectually.

Expectations:
The role of the conductor is the selection and preparation of quality repertoire, and the use of appropriate rehearsal techniques to bring that music to life (both in rehearsal and performance). It is imperative that each student accepts the responsibility of mastering the technical details — outside of the ensemble rehearsal — of his/her individual parts immediately following the initial reading. Attendance, punctuality, and preparation are understood as required of all players.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. The student will become familiar with standard brass ensemble literature.
2. The student will develop an understanding of how to perform and interpret music from the baroque, classical, romantic, twentieth century and contemporary style periods.
3. The student will become familiar how to sonically and tonally blend with the other musicians in order to produce a balanced, musical performance.
Grading:
Each ensemble member meeting expectations (i.e. preparation, attendance, and growth) and having no unexcused absences from rehearsals/performances will receive a grade of “A.” Those not meeting expectations will receive a grade of “B” or lower. In the case of substandard preparation/growth, the student will be called into a conference with Dr. Sipes in an effort to ameliorate the situation before the grade is lowered.

Excuses from performances and rehearsals are extremely rare (i.e. death in the family). Each unexcused absence from rehearsal will lower the student’s grade by one full letter grade. Four unexcused tardies will equal one unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade.

IMPORTANT:
If you find that you are unable to attend a rehearsal or performance for any reason, you must contact Mr. Sipes by email (preferred), text message, phone, or in person before said rehearsal or performance. If impossible to do so (car accident on the way to rehearsal, etc.), contact Mr. Sipes as soon as possible.

*Notice to Students with Disabilities:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

*** Grade Appeal Process.
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.