LOW BRASS ENSEMBLE
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2019

Department: Music
Room#: CA 127
Course Number: MUSI 1135.004
Office#: CA 133
Title: Low Brass Ensemble
Office Hours: MW 2-3, TR 12-2
Period: TBA - MW 1:00-1:50*
Phone: (361) 825-2375
Instructors: Dr. C. Floyd Richmond
Email: clarence.richmond@tamucc.edu
Credit Hour: 1

I. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Low Brass Ensemble is designed to teach students the musicianship and ensemble performance. Its repertoire includes contemporary and classic works composed for the low brass groups, designed to both entertain and enlighten the students and the audience. The students learn how to tune, balance and blend with like instruments and perform in roles uncommon for tubas and euphoniums. Ensemble members gain valuable experiences that enable them to foster their professional goals. Low Brass Ensemble performs no fewer than one on-campus concert during the semester. Additional performances will be announced as far in advance as possible. Low Brass Ensemble is open to all students.

II. REQUIRED MATERIALS
Students must have the following materials at every rehearsal:
1. Instrument(s)
2. Assigned music
3. Accessories (mutes, etc.)
4. Pencil

Students are expected to come rehearsal prepared to play with all of their equipment. Failure to have all required materials may result in dismissal for the day and loss of letter grade. All music and folders are the property of Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi. Any damage or loss is the financial responsibility of the student.

III. PERFORMANCE CALENDAR
TBA

IV. GRADING POLICY
Grading: Each student will begin the semester with the grade of A. It is possible for that grade to be lowered for the following reasons:

1. **Unexcused Rehearsal Absence.** Each unexcused rehearsal absence will result in the lowering of the grade by one letter. An absence is defined as arriving to rehearsal more than 30 minutes past the start of the scheduled class time.
   - 0 Absences       A
   - 1 Absence        B
   - 2 Absences       C
   - 3 Absences       D
   - 4 Absences       F
   - 5

2. **Excused Absence.** Members will only be excused if: 1. an official Absence Request Form is submitted at least 24 hours prior to the date of the absence; and 2. a competent substitute is sent for the missed rehearsal. Failure to provide a substitute may result in an unexcused absence.
   The ONLY excused absences are for the following:
   1. Personal Illness: Requires a written doctor's excuse required.
   2. Death/funeral/major surgery/family emergency in the immediate family, with every effort made to contact the instructors in advance.
While is it sometimes necessary to miss a rehearsal due to an emergency, Symphonic Winds is a performance-oriented class, and grades are based primarily on your participation. Excessive absences by any member – even excused – diminishes the quality of the ensemble and may result in the lowering of the letter grade and/or removal from the group. Every member of the ensemble plays an important role in the success of the band, and you must use your best judgment regarding your attendance.

3. **Performance Absence.** One unexcused performance absence will result in an automatic failing semester grade and removal from the ensemble.

4. **Late Arrival to Rehearsal.** Two unexcused tardies to rehearsal (entering rehearsal more than one minute after the official start time) are equivalent to one unexcused absence. Students should arrive at rehearsal warmed up and ready to perform, or early enough to be able to do so their own. Rehearsal warm-ups are designed to establish ensemble sound and intonation NOT to warm up each individual.

In order to be excused from a rehearsal, or in cases where you need to arrive late or leave early, a student must fill out an **Absence Request Form** found on the ensemble webpagecla.tamucc.edu/music/pages/ensembles.html. The form must be received at least 24 hours prior to the request date and should be submitted as far in advance as possible. In cases of emergency, when you may not be able to get to a computer, the form must be submitted within 48 hours of the absence. Work – including with local high school bands – is not excusable. **Requesting an absence does not guarantee approval. Verbal requests are not accepted.**

5. **Participation**
Positive participation is expected of all members. Students who talk during instruction, arrive at rehearsal unprepared, and act rudely detract from the positive atmosphere necessary of effective learning. Disruptive students exhibiting these or similar behaviors may be dismissed from rehearsal and will receive an unexcused absence for that day.

6. **Cell Phone Policy**
Concert Band has a zero tolerance policy regarding cell phone use during class. If you are caught using your phone for any reason during rehearsal, you will be sent out of rehearsal and immediately removed from the ensemble. If there is an emergency and you must use your phone, excuse yourself from the room to do so. Someone who is found to be leaving the room more often than is acceptable by the director will receive one verbal or written warning. Further such activity will result in removal from the ensemble.

V. **CONCERT ETIQUETTE AND DRESS CODE**
Concerts are important events as they represent the culmination of much hard work by many different people. It is important that members of the ensemble respect these performances through their behavior on the stage or in the audience. The expectations for band members are:

1. There will be a minimum of talking between pieces. There will be no talking and little motion between parts of a multi-movement work.

2. After a piece has ended, look to the podium for instruction. Do not touch your music or start working on your instrument. As the audience has listened to the band attentively, so we will acknowledge their applause.

3. Stay engaged during performance. Do not look around the stage or allow your mind to wander. Listen to the music around you when you are not playing because **you are always performing.**

4. Assume there is always someone important watching you. Act accordingly.
Dress Code
The dress code policy is designed so all players look professional and uniform. It is expected that all members will adhere to the code. Those found in violation of the code will be dismissed from the concert and be subject to the consequences as outlined in the syllabus.

ALL
All black. This may include:
- Black, button down shirt or blouse
- Black pants
- Ankle-high black socks
- Black dress shoes
- Black dress, length down to the shoe tops (no short skirts)

No perfume/cologne or strong lotions
No bright and/or dangling jewelry

I. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.
assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.
Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help.

Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/), and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations
For scholarly citations in this class, any commonly-used, consistent and unmixed style is acceptable: MLA, APA, Chicago, or Turabian.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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Clarence Floyd Richmond  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music  
Texas A & M Corpus Christi  

Office MW 2-3, TR noon-2

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:50</td>
<td>MUSI 1307 - Elements of Musical Style CA 228</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:50</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>MUSI 1117 - Aural Training II CA 222</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>MUSI 1117 - Aural Training II CA 222</td>
<td>Euphonium Lesson (TBA)</td>
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<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>Tuba Ensemble (TBA)</td>
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<td>OFFICE</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>1:00-1:50</td>
<td>MUEN 1122 Concert Band CA 127</td>
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<td>2:00-3:15</td>
<td>OFFICE</td>
<td>MUSI 4355 - Music for Young Children CA 228</td>
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<td>3:30-4:45</td>
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<td>MUSI 1306 Understanding and Enjoying Music BH 205</td>
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**SPRING 2019 FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Exam Time</th>
<th>Final Exam schedule for courses that begin at the following times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>10:00 MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00 MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>4:20 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.</td>
<td>7:00 M</td>
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Your final exam will take place on:  
- **Friday** May 03  
- **Saturday** May 04  
- **Monday** May 06  
- **Tuesday** May 07  
- **Wednesday** May 08  
- **Thursday** May 09

**EXAMS:**
Friday, May 3, 8:00-10:30, MUSI 1307, Elements of Musical Style (MWF10)  
Tuesday, May 7, 11:00-1:30, MUSI 1117 - Aural Training II (TR11)  
Tuesday, May 7, 1:45-4:15, MUSI 4355 - Music for Young Children (TR2)  
Thursday, May 9, 1:45-4:15, MUSI 1306, Understanding and Enjoying Music (TR330)  
MUEN 1122, Concert Band (Final Concert)  
MUEN 1135.004, Low Brass Ensemble (Final Concert)  
Private Lessons, Jury Schedule to be Posted

*A complete PDF schedule is found here:*