

University of Iowa  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
School of Music  
David Gier, Director - 132 CSM5  
Applied Trombone Lessons - Fall 2016

Dr. Jonathan Allen  
Office: 3756 UCC  
Phone: 319.335.1655  
[jonathan-allen@uiowa.edu](mailto:jonathan-allen@uiowa.edu)

Robert Parker  
Office: 3752 UCC  
Phone: 336.687.1589  
[robert-parker@uiowa.edu](mailto:robert-parker@uiowa.edu)

Gavin Carney  
Office: 3752 UCC  
Phone: 208.709.6732  
[gavin-carney@uiowa.edu](mailto:gavin-carney@uiowa.edu)

### Prerequisite

Satisfactory audition and approval of the instructor are required for all private trombone instruction.

### Required materials for all undergraduate students

Membership in the International Trombone Association  
Buddy Baker - Trombone Method  
Milt Stevens/Brian Bowman - Scale and Arpeggios Routines  
Rochut/Bordogni - Book 1  
Blazhevich - School in Clefs  
Brad Edwards - Lip Slurs

### Course Descriptions

025:056	Lower Level Trombone
025:134	Upper Level Trombone
025:279	Graduate Major Trombone

Students enrolled in these courses (2 semester hours) will receive one 50 minute lesson per week, usually totaling 14 per semester. Students in these courses are required to participate in trombone choir and a major ensemble.

025:033	Secondary Performance Instruction for Majors
025:059	Performance Instruction for Non-Majors

Students enrolled in these courses (1 semester hour) will receive one half-hour lesson per week. Dr. Allen strongly recommends that non-majors be enrolled concurrently in an ensemble.

Course content includes trombone performance and pedagogy. Materials are drawn from selected standard solo and study literature, based on the needs and abilities of each student, as determined by the instructor. (See attached "Recommended Course of Study.") Each lesson will include time spent on the student's growth as a performer and as a pedagogue. Areas of inquiry will include musicianship, technical command, stage presence, teaching approaches to fundamental techniques (posture, breathing, embouchure formation and function, slide technique, register development, etc.), and professionalism.

## Course Goals

During the course of the semester the student will:

- improve musical perception, technical facility, and expressive capabilities;
- broaden knowledge of repertoire and study materials;
- grow as a performing musician through regular public performances, and;
- learn about a variety of pedagogical approaches, and demonstrate the ability to diagnose technical and musical problems, and then articulate appropriate and effective pedagogical solutions, both in the lesson and in Trombone Seminar.

## Grading

The final lesson grade is a compilation of your weekly lesson grade (60%), Seminar grade (20%), and Jury grade (20%). Plus and minus grading is used.

### Weekly Lesson Grade

Weekly lessons will be graded on the following criteria:

#### 1) Attendance

Trombone study requires faithful attendance at lessons and regular practice on given assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance if he or she must miss a lesson due to a conflicting university engagement. Please email, or call. If you are sick on the day of your lesson, please call as soon as you can. Any unexcused absence will result in the deduction of one full letter grade from the final grade. (For example, a final grade of A would be lowered to a B, an A- to a B-, a B+ to a C+, etc.) The instructor is not obligated to make up lessons missed if there is no legitimate reason provided for the absence. Lessons will be made up in the case of illness or an excused absence. If the instructor must miss a lesson because of a professional or personal conflict, the lesson will be made up as soon as possible, at the student's convenience. Calling at the lesson time or just before it asking to reschedule is not acceptable.

#### 2) Preparation and Professionalism

Conscientious practice of all assigned study materials and completion of listening assignments will weigh heavily in the weekly grade. Students will be responsible for obtaining required music in a timely fashion and are expected to **purchase their own copies** of the standard study material and solo repertoire, including all works performed in public. Being prepared means working **daily** on fundamentals and assigned music.

In order to calculate the weekly lesson grade, I will ask these questions:

- 1) Has the student worked throughout the week to learn the assigned material?
- 2) Has the student prepared with attention to both technical and musical detail?
- 3) Is the student on time?
- 4) Does the student have all of their materials (i.e. music, mutes, etc.?)
- 5) Has the student marked breaths, decided on phrasing, worked out alternate positions, etc.?
- 6) Has the student done the recommended listening?
- 7) Has the student acquired the assigned materials in a timely way?

#### 3) Investment and Commitment

- 1) Does the student ask questions?
- 2) Does the student show initiative?
- 3) Does the student take advantage of opportunities?

### **Jury Guidelines and Grading**

All students enrolled for credit (including those in 025:059) will perform a jury at the end of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to secure the services of an accompanist for the jury, if required by the instructor. Students who perform degree recitals (for credit) during the semester are not required to play a jury. Non-major juries will be held during finals week. Non-majors will be required to play a mid-semester jury, as well. University regulations require that students be allowed to make up examinations which have been missed due to illness, mandatory religious obligations, other unavoidable circumstances, or University-sponsored activities; if you are unable to perform a jury for one of these reasons, you are responsible for contacting the brass faculty in a timely fashion, and scheduling an alternative jury time before the end of finals week.

### **Proficiency Exams**

In order to be allowed to enroll in upper level trombone, students must successfully pass a proficiency exam. Proficiency exams are taken as part of a student's jury, normally at the end of the fourth semester. The exam includes excerpts, sight-reading in tenor clef (for tenor trombone players), sight-reading 8vb (for bass trombonists), and scales and arpeggios. Details are available from Dr. Allen.

### **Seminar Expectations and Grading**

Seminar provides opportunities for you to perform in front of your peers, receive constructive criticism and encouragement, participate in discussions relevant to trombone performance, and profit from hearing new repertoire, musical ideas and pedagogical approaches. All students are required to contribute to the class discussion! Majors are required to attend and participate in the weekly studio class, and all others enrolled in lessons are encouraged to do so as well. All majors are required to perform in seminar twice each semester. Graduate students will be required to present one topic each semester, chosen in consultation with Dr. Allen. Those presenting recitals are encouraged to use a portion of one seminar prior to the recital date to perform and discuss one of the recital pieces. Majors who are absent without prior excuse will have their final grade lowered by one-half of a letter grade. Seminar meets Thursdays, from 12:30 to 1:20 in UCC Chamber Room 2.

In order to calculate your Seminar Performance/Participation Grade, I will ask the following:

1. Has the student prepared properly?
2. If required, has the student secured a pianist, rehearsed adequately, etc.?
3. Does the seminar performance exhibit the result of a sustained effort?
4. Is the student working "at level" with regards to both technique and musical expression?
5. Does the student make observations and offer criticism/commentary?

### **Additional Studio Requirements and Expectations**

#### **Accompanists**

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the services of an accompanist for studio classes, recitals, juries, etc., as required by the instructor, and to coordinate schedules so they can be available for lessons, dress rehearsals, and performances. Those preparing recitals should plan to have the accompanist come to your regularly scheduled lesson time at least one month prior to the recital date. Failure to have accompaniment available for ample rehearsal time, as described above, will result in a re-scheduling of the performance within the semester. If rescheduling is not possible, the performance or jury will be canceled, and the student's final grade will be appropriately altered.

#### **Ensemble expectations**

All studio members are expected to be in a major ensemble each semester they are enrolled in lessons. All studio members are to be enrolled in Trombone Choir (Brass Chamber Music, Trombone) each semester. All students should attempt to gain as much performance experience as possible in as many styles as possible (band, orchestra, jazz, latin, etc.)

## **Instruments**

Every effort should be made to acquire a professional-level instrument as soon as possible. "Use the right tool for the job" applies here. Most students should own two professional instruments: a "classical" or large-bore instrument, and a jazz trombone (small-bore). Advanced students may consider acquiring an alto trombone when learning the instrument. Bass trombonists can do nearly all their performing on the same instrument, although many professional bass trombonists also own a large-bore tenor for certain types of playing. There are a limited number of instruments owned by the university. The lending of these instruments is primarily for those learning a new instrument.

## **Required Recital/Event Attendance**

Your attendance will be required at designated peer recitals and guest artist events throughout the semester. These events will be posted.

## **Recital Recording Policy**

All students performing degree recitals will be required to have the recital recorded professionally. Two copies should be produced: one copy should be given to Dr. Allen, one copy is for your personal records.

## **International Trombone Association**

The importance of supporting one's professional associations cannot be overemphasized.

The International Trombone Association has been and remains critically important in the dissemination of vital information regarding all trombone-related facts and activities. From orchestral to jazz, pedagogy to performance, historical to current events, its value is inestimable. It is therefore expected that each applied trombone student will (and will certainly want to) join ITA, if not already a member. You can access online membership by going to the ITA website or by emailing [membership@trombone.net](mailto:membership@trombone.net).

## **Expectations for Freshman, Fall Semester**

1. Establish an effective daily routine
2. Memorize all major scales and arpeggios
3. Memorize Mozart's Requiem and Saint-Saëns 3
4. Learn 15 Rochut Etudes
5. Learn 15 Blazhevich or Tyrell Etudes (as assigned by your instructor)
6. Learn 2 full solos
7. Perform twice in Trombone Seminar
8. Give regular critique in Trombone Seminar
9. Record all lessons (bring an SD card to each lesson). Listen back after each lesson. Make

notes of what you learned in each lesson.

10. Keep a practice journal. Keep your notes and assignments for each lesson in this journal.

Keep track of what you practice, what tempi you are currently developing, as well as short-term, semester, and long-term goals.

11. Listen to good music daily.

## The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Important Policies and Procedures

### **Administrative Home**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook.

### **Electronic Communication**

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondence (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11).

### **Accommodations for Disabilities**

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. See [www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/) for more information.

### **Academic Honesty**

All students taking CLAS courses have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

### **CLAS Final Examination Policies**

The date and time of every final examination is announced by the Registrar generally by the tenth day of classes. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of the final exam.

### **Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

### **Understanding Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

### **Reacting Safely to Severe Weather**

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety website

### Musician's Health and Safety

For information about how to protect your hearing, neuro-musculoskeletal and vocal health, please visit the "Resources" page of the School of Music website, found here: <http://music.uiowa.edu/resources-students-faculty>.