

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
TROMBONE STUDIO SYLLABUS
MUA 186, 286, 386, 586, 686

DR. JONATHAN WHITAKER
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STUDIO WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.ROLLSLIDE.COM](http://www.rollslide.com)

OFFICE HOURS:

By appointment – Schedule can be viewed at www.rollslide.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Each student will participate in weekly applied lessons, studio classes, chamber music rehearsals and trombone choir.

OBJECTIVES:

Acquire a high level of characteristic tonal color and technical proficiency combined with a thorough knowledge of the pedagogical concepts and methods needed to instruct such proficiency to others.

Develop evaluative skills both for self-improvement and for effective teaching.

Expand the student's general musicianship as the key to intelligent interpretation of the literature.

Acquire a broad knowledge of the instrument's repertoire, heritage from world-class artists, and various performance styles.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

Each student will be assigned an individual course of study based on his or her needs as a trombonist.

EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to come to each lesson having prepared **ALL** materials assigned. Each student is expected to practice 1 hour per credit hour of lessons per day. This also includes holidays and weekends.

Students are expected to record their daily practice frequently. This will help speed up the learning process on key fundamentals and concepts of playing.

Students are expected to buy all of the necessary materials associated with performance on trombone. See Required Materials.

Students are to view each lesson as a **performance**, demonstrating the progress made since the previous lesson. Please remember, nothing significant is ever accomplished in a single practice session. The benefits from one practice session will likely be noticed days later. Therefore, do not attempt to “cram” for your lessons. Steady progress is achieved by daily, diligent, thoughtful practice. Steady progress is the goal, not perfection.

STUDIO POLICIES AND HELPFUL INFORMATION:

Students must come to their lessons on time and WARMED UP! Failure to do so will result dismissal from that lesson.

Please report to your lesson on time, **not before**. Please knock on the studio door at your appointed lesson time. I will often need the interval between lessons to tend to details that arise throughout the day, to finish a previous lesson or to keep my own chops limber. We will have a better lesson if you respect this policy.

All students enrolled in trombone lessons at Alabama are required to play in Trombone Choir and attend weekly Studio Class. Your participation, attendance, preparation and overall attitude toward these sessions will be reflected in your semester grade for lessons.

Please check Slack, email and the bulletin board on the studio door **SEVERAL TIMES A DAY**. These are the easiest ways for us to communicate during the week.

A list of **required recitals and events** can be found on the studio Google Calendar. This is the official studio calendar. All trombone majors are required to attend all recitals performed by fellow studio members. Your attendance at these recitals will be reflected in your semester grade for lessons.

Each large ensemble section is required to hold a one hour sectional each week outside of rehearsal. The principal player of each section will coordinate these sectionals.

Each student is expected to provide an accompanist for appropriate solo performances, juries, etc. Please consult me for a list of approved pianists. Please have your pianist booked by the following dates: October 15 (Fall semester) and March 1 (Spring semester).

Each student is required to have a minimum of 2 piano coachings for a jury or sophomore qualifying and a minimum of 3 for a recital. These coachings should not all take place at the last minute. Plan ahead! Grades will be lowered for not following through with this!

Refrain from speaking disparagingly of those “higher on the food chain” than you. Be respectful. Be classy. Be positive. Don’t be a tattletale but alert me to problems

that may have a negative impact on the studio. Hold each other to a high standard. The quality of our studio is highly respected and recognized school-wide and nation-wide. Don't do anything to endanger that standing. You will hear from me if you do.

You are accountable for any/every word in the music that you present in lessons. It is required that you know every musical term. Also know about composers, arrangers, musical forms, etc. You will be quizzed at my discretion and a record made of your deficiencies. You may be dismissed from a lesson and receive a failing grade for the lesson if you do not know the meaning of every word on the page. Be interested, not lazy. You have chosen a career where laziness/irresponsibility will prevent you from being successful. Learn now. Practice for the real world NOW, while in the safe environment of school.

Lessons are not always about the music and/or trombone playing. Sometimes they are about life or other things to help you become the musician and person you profess you want to be. I am here to help you.

"Distraction by device" is a disease. Learn to manage your disease. Learn to enjoy living in the real world and not merely through your screen. Be present. Invest in your relationships with others. The choices **you** make determine **your** future. Learn to live in the moment, without having to document everything to the rest of the world. Additionally, don't worry about what everyone else in the world is doing. What matters is what **you** are doing to better **yourself**. You build your future one day at a time. You have a choice. You determine your future.

We live in an age of information overload. We all have more information coming at us from more sources than we can possibly process. We all must learn to sift out what is important. The person who is able to do this and prioritizes intelligently will be more successful than the one who doesn't. We cannot be all things to all people. Choose intelligently.

Engage in improving fundamental development every day. Produce clean attacks followed by consistent timbres. Listen. CONCEPT. COORDINATION. EASY EXCHANGE OF AIR. Just because it is simple does not mean it is easy.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student will be graded weekly based on his or her preparation of the assigned material each week.

Each student is expected to keep a list of weekly assignments outlining the materials and concepts to be covered during the week.

GRADING POLICY:

Your lesson grade will be the result of the following:

Consistency of lesson preparedness
Scale/key preparation
Convocation/Jury/Recital Performance
Trombone Choir/Chamber Music
Studio Class attendance and participation
Required Recital Attendance
Scale Exam

Weekly lessons/lesson transcripts	50%
Convocation/Jury/Recital/Scale Exam	20%
Trombone Choir/Chamber Music	15%
Studio Class/Required Recitals	15%

JURY AND SOPHOMORE QUALIFYING:

- Performance Major
 - 2 solos with accompaniment (or appropriate unaccompanied solo)
 - excerpts
 - scales
- Music Education
 - 2 solos with accompaniment (or appropriate unaccompanied solo)
 - scales
- Music Therapy
 - 1 solo with accompaniment
 - scales

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is **REQUIRED** each week. Lessons will not be rescheduled if the student does not contact the professor prior to the absence and this will result a grade of F for that lesson. Lessons will not be rescheduled due to “not having time to prepare” or “I have been so busy and have so much to do that I haven’t practiced.” It is the student’s responsibility to reschedule lessons that are excused. If you are more than 10 minutes late to your lesson it will be cancelled...I will be involved in another project by then. Please have a datebook or smart phone and use it dutifully (see Required Materials and Equipment).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Arban - Complete Method (Alessi/Bowman edition) (36467)
Borgogni - The Complete Vocalises (Mulcahy edition) (72450)
Schlossberg - Daily Drills and Techniques (06210)
Marsteller - Basic Routines (021394)
Blazhevich - Clef Studies (58966) - TENORS ONLY
Blazhevich - 70 Studies vol. 1 (001209) - BASSES ONLY

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

Digital Recording Device (see instructor for recommendations)

Datebook or smart phone

Instrument in good repair

Mouthpiece (see instructor for recommendations)

All necessary mutes

Etude books and solo material (an individual list will be made for each student).

Each student will be required to own the ORIGINAL of each work performed in public.

Micro-cassette recorder with counter and half speed feature or digital equivalent

Tuner or smart phone app

Metronome or smart phone app

THE UA TROMBONE STUDIO "A" STUDENT PROFILE

Trains professionally

Takes every aspect of career at Alabama seriously

Prepares thoroughly for lessons

Self motivated and enthusiastic about improving performance and/or teaching skills

Able to listen actively

Quick in implementation

Non-confrontational

Handles all of the organizational elements of the Studio with skill

Seeks opportunities to audition, record, perform and contribute to all aspects of the School of Music

Carries a duet book in music bag for musical interaction with others

Is curious about technology and how it can be of great benefit

Browses numerous resources looking for new literature and recordings

Listens to fine recordings and reads about instrument/music daily

Not necessarily the most talented

TROMBONE CHOIR AND STUDIO CLASS:

Trombone Choir and/or Studio Class will meet every Tuesday and Thursday (6:00-7:30 pm). See the Google Calendar for performance dates for each semester.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Many of you will ask me for letters of recommendation. I take these letters very seriously and write letters that are specific to each student. I do not follow a form letter and paste in the student's name. Since each letter is drafted from scratch, I require at least 2 weeks notice to complete the letter. I am also very honest in my letters. I write letters based upon the type of letter I would like to receive about a student. When/if you seek a letter from me, please understand that I will give an honest assessment of your work, **as seen through my eyes**. You may wish to confer

with me to be certain that what I will write is consistent with what you hope I will write.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Important aspects of performance related injury(s) related to the discipline will be discussed. These include physical concerns related to the lip, teeth, facial muscles, arms, shoulders, back and lungs. In addition, important concerns and considerations regarding hearing health will be addressed. The student will learn how to adjust relative to diverse acoustical environments and direct exposure to sustained sound in a variety of rehearsal settings. The use of hearing protection as is appropriate/needed will be addressed. The use of headphones/ear inserts when listening to music will be addressed as well.

IMPROVISATION:

Development of appropriate skills including, but not limited to tone, range, facility, dynamics, and proper performance practice (including improvised cadenza material and ornamentation as appropriate). Basic aspects of improvisation will be learned including the creation of melodies and rhythmic motives within various tonal centers.

TECHNOLOGY:

Use of digital recording and playback equipment for the purpose of practice evaluation, audition/competition preparation, and tempo/intonation drills. Each student must own or have full access to the necessary equipment. (Minimum: digital recording device and microphone.)

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL:

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor.

Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students (sign up at myBama)
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA 7. WVUA 7 Storm Watch provides a free service you can subscribe to that allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail, pager or cell phone. Check <http://www.wvua7.com/stormwatch.html> for details.

UAct

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination,

harassment, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.