SAXOPHONE COURSE SYLLABUS

SAXO 100, 121, 221, 224, 300, 321, 421, 422, 622, 711, 811, 961

OBJECTIVES

• In-depth exploration and evaluation of saxophone performance skills
• Improvement of performance capabilities as a soloist and ensemble member
• Successful performance of major works from the saxophone repertoire
• Development of a firm foundation of pedagogical techniques

GRADING

• Grading is ultimately a subjective evaluation of a student's ability to grasp new or different concepts and apply these concepts to performance proficiency. The following areas are offered as a guide to the evaluation of the learning process:
  1. Tone Production: quality, size, dynamic control, vibrato, breathing
  2. Intonation: playing in the middle of the pitch, tuning intervals, tuning to others
  3. Rhythm: accuracy of note values within a steady pulse, flexibility in relation to musicality (ritard., rubato, etc.)
  4. Facility: clean, accurate articulations and fingerings, smooth legato, breath releases, tongue releases
  5. Musicality: developing a strong concept of playing the musical line within a variety of musical styles
• The semester grade is based on the following:
  1. The student's progress during the semester
  2. The student's level of achievement in relation to that expected at each level of saxophone study
  3. Attendance at lessons, studio class (for music majors only) and required performances
  4. Performance examination at the end of the semester, which includes required scales, etudes and a solo
  5. Jury grade given to music majors and music minors
• Graduate students in saxophone performance will receive a semester grade that is the average grade of the jury or graduate recital.

ATTENDANCE

• The evaluation of learning is impossible when students are not at their lessons. Any absence for which a 24-hour notice is not given will be considered an unexcused absence. In any semester, each unexcused absence beyond the first will result in the grade being lowered by one letter.
• If a student misses a lesson for any reason it will not be made up. However, students may switch lesson times with each other in order to avoid conflicts. Please let me know in advance if a switch will be occurring.
• Students will be notified in advance of my absence, and all lessons that I miss will be rescheduled before the end of the semester.

PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

• When a student is studying saxophone at the university level, practicing must be incorporated into a daily routine. It is the only way to adapt new techniques to one's playing. I will work with each student on an appropriate disciplined routine that will fill the amount of time he/she should be practicing. Saxophone performance majors are expected to practice 3-4 hours per day. MEMT and non-majors are expected to practice 1-2 hours per day. Students who cannot practice at least 1 hour per day should not be taking lessons at the university level!
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Assigned music, and scale and etude books must be purchased. Students should begin to build their own libraries immediately and photocopying of published material is illegal.
- High quality metronome (with subdivision of beats and downbeat feature preferred)
- Dictionary of musical terms
- Reed tools:
  1. Reed knife
  2. #320 wet proof sandpaper
  3. Reed wallet or case
  4. 2" x 3" plate glass or Plexiglas rectangle

RECITAL PERFORMANCE

- Students who are beyond their first semester of study, must perform with accompaniment on the studio recital, which will be held at the conclusion of each semester.
- All music majors (performance, MEMT) must perform as a soloist on at least one departmental afternoon student recital before graduation.
- Performance minors will perform a half recital (30 minutes of music) during their senior year.
- Performance majors will perform a half recital (30 minutes of music) during their junior year and a full recital (60 minutes of music) during their senior year.
- Graduate performance majors at all levels will perform full recitals (60 minutes of music).

RECITAL ATTENDANCE

- Each semester a list of required performances involving saxophonists will be posted. Students who notify me at least 24 hours in advance of their absence from one of these performances, will be allowed to substitute another performance, provided they turn in a 2 page, typed report of and a program from the performance.
- All students must attend the studio recitals at the end of each semester, where they will be asked to write comments to each performer.

JURY EXAMINATIONS

- Each student majoring in music (performance, education, therapy, theory, history), and music minors in performance must play a jury examination at the end of each semester of study until his/her graduation requirements are fulfilled. The examination normally includes a solo, scales or other technical studies, and etudes. First semester freshman, and students performing degree recitals may be excused from taking a jury.

HONOR RECITAL

- Students will be nominated for Honor Recital auditions based on their jury of the previous semester. Non-music majors must audition for the woodwind faculty, preferably during jury examinations, in order to be nominated for an Honor Recital audition.

STUDIO CLASS

- The saxophone studio class is a required lab for all music majors taking applied saxophone lessons. It meets on Thursday afternoons at 12:30 in Swarthout recital hall, and will be used to cover a variety of clinic topics and repertoire. On occasion it will be used as a performance class or a rehearsal for large saxophone ensembles. Attendance is required.

* Throughout your saxophone study we will be working on certain physical components of playing the saxophone. Included in these activities are breathing exercises, relaxation exercises, correct posture, and correct lip, jaw, tongue and throat positioning. If you are not comfortable working on any of these areas, please speak to me at the beginning of the semester.