

Double Reed Making - Bassoon

Syllabus, Spring 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Courses:

MUS TECH 1100

Instruction in the techniques of making and adjusting bassoon, oboe, and English horn reeds.

MUS TECH 3100

Instruction in the techniques of making and adjusting bassoon, oboe, and English horn reeds. Prerequisite: junior standing.

MUS TECH 5100

Instruction in the techniques of making and adjusting bassoon, oboe, and English horn reeds. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

Instructor: Cayla Bellamy

Email: cayla.bellamy@uni.edu

Office: Russell Hall 167

Class Room: Russell Hall 070

Communication:

Email is considered official UNI communication. Please check yours daily.

We will manage schedules and share documents via UNI Google accounts. I will share calendars and drive folders with your individual accounts. All items shared via Google are considered public knowledge for which you are responsible – class dates, rehearsals, and concerts are required events.

Meetings:

Group Class: Mondays or Wednesdays 1:00-1:50, RSL 070

Individual Help: by appointment

MM Reed Pedagogy: individually assigned

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Students will develop technical skills in cane preparation, blank formation, reed scraping, the adjustment of finished reeds.

Students will describe, both verbally and in written form, the principles of physics and biology as relate to basic acoustics, structural stability in a vibrating mechanism, the overtone series, the impact of climate on reed materials.

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REQUIREMENTS

Continuous:

Noticeable technical improvement in all skills assigned:

Cane preparation

Blank formation

Thread wrapping

Knife technique

Measuring devices (micrometer, light, tactile comparison)

Consistent awareness and application of principles of:

Basic acoustics of double reeds

Structural stability in a vibrating mechanism

Overtone series

Impact of climate on reed materials

Cumulative:

Weekly completion of one new reed blank or one new playable reed

Total construction must include at least **five** of each.

MATERIALS

Required:

20 pieces bassoon cane

Processed to level prior to self-processing known (tube, gouged, GSP)

Holding mandrel

Plaque

Knife

22 gauge brass wire

Cotton forming thread or twine

Cotton or nylon wrapping thread

Razor blades or box cutter

Drying rack

Recommended:

George Sakakeeny: *Making Reeds from Start to Finish*

Mark Popkin, Loren Glickman: *Making Bassoon Reeds*

Christin Schillinger: *Bassoon Reed Making: A Pedagogic History*

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GRADE CALCULATION

Class preparation and participation - 60 points (5 per lesson)

Reed making - 30 points (2 per reed)

Reed blanks will be assessed by a visual evaluation and playable reeds will be assessed by a playing test. The playing test will take the form of one scale cycle drawn at random for each playable reed, and reeds will be judged on response, intonation, and tone. These will be submitted weekly.

Reflections – 10 points (5 per reflection)

Two self-reflections will be administered, once at midterms and once at finals, to assess your tendencies, trends, and improvements in reed knowledge and construction. These will be completed in class.