

South Plains College
Course Syllabus: MUAP 1265
Fall 2026

Department: Fine Arts

Discipline: Music

Course Title: Applied Woodwind Lesson

Meeting Time: TBD

Instructor: Dr. Sessa Wallace

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Purpose of the Course

This course is private instruction in oboe, bassoon, clarinet, or saxophone for music majors. Students will improve musicianship through a study of musical performance appropriate to a variety of musical settings such as education, solo performance, and performance in small and large ensembles.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamentals of tone production and playing technique of their instrument.
- Demonstrate a variety of practice techniques, leading to an ability to perform with competence on their instrument.
- Perform technical exercises including scales, arpeggios, and etudes in major and minor keys.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the repertoire regularly performed on their instrument.
- Perform solos that not only demonstrate an understanding of proper tone production and intonation on the instrument but also demonstrate proper musicianship in regards to style and musical interpretation.
- Practice technical studies to enhance comprehension and enjoyment of playing their instrument.
- Improve musicianship in regards to style and musical interpretation.

Expectations

- The student is expected to come prepared for the lesson and to be on time.
- The student is expected to have practiced outside of the lesson and ensemble rehearsals. Seven days a week for at least two hours a day is considered a minimum amount.
- The student is expected to behave in an appropriate and professional manner.
- The student is expected to be interested in improving.
- The student is expected to perform on student recitals as assigned and to attend all department recitals as required.
- The student is expected to perform a jury at the end of the semester. Failure to perform a jury may result in an F for the semester.
- The student is expected to attend other events as assigned by the Instructor.

Required Materials

- Reeds – broken in, at least 1 box (Vandoren or D'Addario Reserve)
- Neck strap, if applicable
- Pencil
- Journal
- 3-Ring Binder for lesson materials

- Metronome/Tuner – Apps are okay
- Instrument in excellent working condition

It is encouraged that students purchase their own copies of technical studies and literature in order to build a personal library.

Lesson Meetings and Attendance

Lessons will be arranged according to students' and professor's class schedules. Attendance at all lessons is mandatory. Students are expected to show up on time and prepared for each lesson. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of F for that lesson. After two unexcused lessons, the student will be dropped from the course. Tardiness will be reflected in the lesson grade. If a lesson must be rescheduled, that must be approved by the instructor in advance of the normally scheduled lesson time.

If a student must a lesson because of participation in an activity sanctioned by the college or being sick, the student must notify the professor PRIOR to the day of absence. This notification must be in the form of a written document prepared by the Office of the Dean of Students or a doctor's note.

Each student will receive one "free" lesson in which they can cancel their lesson with no repercussions.

Withdrawal Policy

The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is December 3. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be updated weekly, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

If the student does not communicate with the professor or attend class for 3 consecutive weeks, the student will be advised to drop the course.

Grading Standards

Students are given a letter grade (A-F) after each lesson:

- A – Excellent preparation/performance of all assigned materials, excellent attitude/etiquette, exceptional improvement.
- B – Good preparation/performance of all assigned materials, good attitude/etiquette, good improvement.
- C – Average preparation/performance of assigned materials, some assignments not prepared, average attitude/etiquette, average improvement.
- D – Poor preparation/performance of all assigned materials, poor attitude/etiquette, poor improvement.
- F – Unexcused/missed lesson, unacceptable preparation, unacceptable improvement. Dismissed from lesson.

Final grades are based on a combination of the following:

- Preparation of weekly playing assignments – 50%
 - Scales/Technique
 - Repertoire
 - Run-Throughs
 - Assigned Recordings

- Literature Information Sheet – 10%
- Scale/Technique Midterm – 20%
- Jury – 20%

Grade Book

The course grade book is maintained at <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>. You are encouraged to log in regularly, to keep track of your personal records. If you have questions about using this website, please do not hesitate to ask the instructor.

Literature Information Sheet

Music majors are required to fill out a Repertoire Information Sheet for solos specified by the instructor. These are due before juries.

Scale/Technique Midterm

Music majors are also required to perform a scale/technique midterm during Week 8 of lessons.

Juries

Music majors are required to perform a jury at the end of each semester. The jury may be in-person or virtual. The jury performance will include scales and etudes/repertoire that the student has worked on during the semester. Failure to perform a jury will result in the grade of F for the course.

Student Recitals

Music majors are required to perform on one student recital per semester. Recitals are held on specified Thursdays in the Recital Hall or virtually via Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom at 4pm.

Sophomore Barriers

Graduating sophomores are required to perform a sophomore barrier, which will consist of technical exercises the student has worked on in lessons for the past 2 years. The barrier may include etudes. The student will also perform one piece of standard repertoire on a sophomore student recital.

Studio Class/Seminar

Woodwind Studio Class or Music Major Seminar will meet as arranged by the instructor and is a part of the lesson curriculum. All majors will attend. The Seminar Class will cover important topics in a group setting and will also provide opportunities for students and faculty to perform for their peers.

SPC Syllabus Statements

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about Diversity, Disabilities, Nondiscrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

For information and resources about COVID-19, please visit:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.