

MUSC: 1811, 2911, 3911

Applied Winds: Saxophone, Level I, II, and III (Major Lessons)

East Tennessee State University – Department of Music

Dr. Brian Rodesch, instructor

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Attendance Policy

The student is expected to be on time and prepared for every lesson. Advanced notice of at least 24 hours is required should the student need to reschedule a lesson due to an excused absence and must be made up within 7 days. For an absence to be considered excused, it must be in one of the following categories: death in the family, a documented school event, or illness. If you must miss a lesson, or if you are sick, you will need to notify Dr. Rodesch immediately and arrange in advance of your scheduled lesson time to schedule a make-up. Make-up lessons will only be scheduled for excused absences, with a maximum of two make-up lessons. Each unexcused absence will be recorded as an "F" (or 0 points) for that lesson. Lessons will be rescheduled should Dr. Rodesch need to cancel due to illness or a schedule change. Absences without proper notice (except for emergencies) may result in the final semester grade lowered by one half letter. A minimum of 10 lessons per semester is required to pass this course.

Lesson Format

Lessons and studio class will be delivered in-person as much as possible. ETSU requires for on ground courses to have 51% in-person live instruction. Remote instruction will be reserved for students in quarantine. Remote lessons can be requested throughout the semester by reaching out to Dr. Rodesch in advance of a scheduled lesson time.

Objectives

The primary objective of individual instruction on the saxophone is to further develop and solidify fundamental skills that are necessary for successful performances in both solo and ensemble settings. Topics that will be addressed include: tone production, tone control, technical facility, articulation, intonation, phrasing, as well as discussions of performance practice and theory in relation to music performance. Some time and assignments will be dedicated to the study of jazz style and improvisation, based off student interest.

Inherent in being successful in these lessons (and really in music, in general) is the development of productive individual practice and accurate goal setting and self-assessment.

Course requirements and grading

It is expected that the student will spend ample time preparing for each weekly meeting, focusing on topics addressed in each lesson. Students will receive a weekly lesson grade. Attendance at all saxophone recitals, master classes, and specified guest performances, as well as scheduled woodwind departmental and studio classes are mandatory. Each student is required to perform a jury during finals week. An accompanist is required for these performances. Students may also be requested to perform a separate technical jury during finals week, or as part of their final lesson. All requirements must be met in order to receive credit for the course.

Grading

Students will be given a letter grade after each lesson according to the quality, quantity, and consistency of their preparation. The lowest lesson grade for each semester will be dropped. Students may consult the instructor at any time regarding their lesson grades. The grading breakdown is approximately as follows:

Weekly lessons - 50%
Technical Requirements - 10%
Final performance (Jury or Recital) - 30%
Required event attendance - 10%

Grading Scale:

A = 96-100. A- = 91-95.
B+ = 88-90. B = 84-87. B- = 81-83.
C+ = 78-80. C = 74-77. C- = 71-73.
D+ = 66-70. D = 61-65.
F = 60 and below.

Lesson Grading Guidelines

Generally, the student can expect the following grades for his/her private lesson portion. These are general guidelines—this grading scale can be revised to meet the individual needs of each student.

“A” represents exceptional work. To receive an “A” for applied lessons, it is necessary to complete ALL of the work assigned. Generally, a student should expect to complete 1 etude every 3-4 weeks, 1 solo works per semester, and ALL of the technical requirements for that semester. “A” will only be awarded if the assigned material is prepared at a very high level.

"B" represents diligent, better than average work. To receive a "B" for private lessons, a student should expect to complete 1 etudes every 4-5 weeks, 1 solo work per semester, and MOST of the technical work assigned. "B" will only be awarded if most of the assigned material is played well.

"C" represents average work. To receive a "C" for private lessons, a student should expect to complete a minimum of 1 etude every 5-6 weeks, 1 solo work, and most of the technical work assigned. "C" will only be awarded if a majority of the assigned material is played with a reasonable number of errors.

"D" (25 points) represents below-average work. "D" work will not count toward graduation requirements for music majors. "D" will be assigned if the student is obviously unprepared for their lesson.

"F" (0 points) represents failing work. "F" will be assigned if the student fails to attend the lesson.

Technical Requirements:

The following is more of a guide for your technical development. Everyone develops technical abilities at their own pace; but the one commonality for all musicians is consistent dedication to these skills. Specific assignments will be made for each student based off their current knowledge and ability. All material MUST be performed with a metronome.

1st year:

- All major scales & arpeggios, full range, up to quarter note = 80
- All harmonic minor scales & arpeggios, full range, up to quarter note = 60
- Chromatic scale, full range up to quarter note = 80

2nd year:

- All major and harmonic minor scales & arpeggios, full range, up to quarter note = 80
- All major scales in thirds, full range, up to quarter note = 60
- All melodic and natural minor scales, full range, up to quarter note = 60

3rd year:

- All major and minor scales & arpeggios, full range, up to quarter note = 100
- All major scales in thirds, full range, up to quarter note = 80
- All melodic minor scales in thirds, full range, up to quarter note = 60
- Chromatic scale, full range, up to quarter note = 100

4th year:

- Review all major and minor scales, arpeggios, & thirds as needed
- All diminished and whole tone (augmented) scales & arpeggios, full-range, to quarter note = 80
- Major scales in 4th, as assigned
- Bebop and other jazz skills (if time and interest)

Suggested Repertoire, Methods, & Etudes:

- *Voicing: An approach to the saxophone's third register* (Sinta)
- *Chops: 221 Full Range Fundamental and Technical Exercises for 21st Century Saxophonist* (Graser)

For additional resources and repertoire suggestions, please see the available resources posted through D2L

Juries:

All music majors must perform a jury at the end of each semester. Music minors are not required to prepare a jury but must have one solo performance per semester (Studio recital, Master class, Jury, etc.).

Minimum practice recommendations:

- ✓ MAJORS: 10-12 hours per week.
- ✓ MINORS: 5-7 hours per week.
- ✓ NON-MAJORS: 2-3 hours per week.

Required & Suggested Course Materials:

Selected materials will be made available through D2L, but it is strongly encouraged that students purchase materials relevant to their studies.

*It is expected that individually assigned repertoire and etude books will be ordered, checked out, or printed within two weeks of the first lesson. If the piece you are assigned is not in the public domain, you must purchase an original copy.

Saxophone Music & Accessories

- Muncy Winds: www.muncywinds.com (reeds, accessories, equipment)
- Groth Music: www.grothmusic.com (sheet music)
- Amazon (everything)
- Many newer works can be ordered directly from composers.

Saxophone Organizations and Resources:

- North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA), www.saxophonealliance.org
 - Student rate available!
- The Saxophonist online magazine, www.thesaxophonist.org

Other important information:

Academic accommodations for disabilities: All reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. At the beginning of the semester, students must provide a faculty accommodation form specifying the necessary accommodations.

Honor Code: Any act of dishonesty in academic work constitutes academic misconduct and will be subject to disciplinary action and result in course failure. This includes plagiarism, the changing or falsifying of any academic documents or materials, cheating, and the giving or receiving of unauthorized aid in tests, examinations, or other assigned school work.

Honor Pledge: By becoming a member of the campus community, students agree to live by the standards of the honor code and thereby, pledge the following: "I pledge to act with honesty, integrity, and civility in all matters."

D2L (Desire to learn): This course is web-enhanced. Log in for assignments, course documents, and other information. It is your responsibility to check D2L on a regular basis.

COVID-19:

Considering the ongoing and dynamic nature of the pandemic, members of the university community are obligated to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Any student who feels ill should not attend in-person classes. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or were in close contact with a person who has tested positive, you should immediately get tested at the University Health Center (423-439-4225 or 1-888-915-4225) or the Washington County Department of Health.

