

Western Michigan University • School of Music
Horn Syllabus • 2016-17

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Office hours by appointment. • This syllabus is subject to change.

The objective of applied horn lessons is for the student to develop musical and technical proficiency to his/her maximum potential within a given semester (see the Horn Curriculum Guides for specifics).

Lesson Length

Undergraduate students registered for one credit hour will receive a weekly 30-minute lesson; two credit hours, a weekly 40-minute lesson; four credit hours, 55 minutes. Graduate students registered for one-credit hour will receive a weekly 40-minute lesson while those registered for two credits will receive a 55-minute lesson each week.

Missed and Make-up Lessons

If you can not make your lesson time, try to switch with another student and let me know this by email, phone, or a note on the horn board. If you must miss, but can not reschedule that week, please let me know at least 24 hours in advance. I will try to make up the lesson for you, but there are no guarantees. Lessons that you miss or cancel at the last minute will ***not*** be made up and will negatively affect your grade (only a death in the family, extreme illness, or other emergencies will be excused from the penalties of last-minute cancellations). Lessons that I must miss due to other professional commitments will be rescheduled or scheduled with a GA.

Required Materials

You must purchase a lesson notebook for assignments and notes, a horn folder for horn-related handouts, a music dictionary, a metronome, a tuner, a straight mute, valve oil, slide grease, and music for lessons. You should budget around \$50 per semester for music, which will be purchased throughout the semester. The notebook is especially important and is our record of what you should prepare for the next lesson. Copied music is not allowed in lessons or performances unless the music is on order. The following materials are ***strongly*** recommended: notebook for your personal notes and discoveries on horn-playing and a mini-disc recorder for practice and for collecting good recordings of performances for future auditions. Please bring your horn, lesson notebook, horn folder, and music to each lesson.

Email

Email is a vital communication link between you and Dr. Foulk. You should get in the habit of checking your email at least twice a day—first thing in the morning and last thing at night—and keep Dr. Foulk informed of your preferred or changed email address.

Grades

Your grade for this course is an average of two equal components: the applied lesson grade and graded performances at juries, hearings, etc. in the semester that these are required. The applied lesson grade is based on the degree of improvement on your horn as ***demonstrated*** in the weekly

lesson (any musical or non-musical activities of the week that may have prevented you from doing your best preparation will not be considered in the grading process), the amount of material covered each semester (even if a recital is given—see the Horn Curriculum Guide for repertoire requirements), attendance at recitals, studio class, group warm-ups, and other horn-related events, and the successful completion of extra studio assignments (such as listening assignments and portfolios). The quality and preparation of both required and non-required recitals will factor into your lesson grade. You will continue to work on etudes, excerpts, and other technical exercises in lessons even while you prepare for your recital. Grading is conducted the same as any other university course and breaks down as follows:

A = outstanding, exceptional, extraordinary. If the material is new, careful preparation has been made of everything written on the page. If the material is being reviewed, issues worked on in the last lesson have been significantly developed and improved over the week and the student accomplished above and beyond what was assigned.

BA

B = very good, high pass. Average preparation or progress from last week and average accomplishment of the assignment.

CB

C = satisfactory, acceptable, adequate. Very little preparation or progress from last week and/or didn't follow the assignment.

DC

D = poor. Practiced hardly at all (whether or not you confess).

E = failing. No show without notifying Dr. Foulk.

W = official withdrawal

I = incomplete

Lesson Preparation

Come to all lessons prepared: be warmed up (but not too tired) and mentally ready to play all assigned material in addition to other material that you have prepared (it is expected that you will probably practice a lot more music than we will be able to cover in lessons). In general, students registered for four credit hours should practice a minimum of three hours each day (regardless of your major). *Your preparation will determine how much can be covered in each lesson.*

It is expected that you will have looked up all foreign terms and will have listened to at least one recording of the piece (excerpts and solos) BEFORE bringing it to a lesson for the first time. It is also expected that anything you bring to the lesson will have been worked on in some detail already (right notes, rhythm, articulation, and dynamics)—don't bring new material that you are more or less sight-reading.

Come to all lessons with a plan: have a plan as to what you would like to discuss and address in your lesson. What techniques were not working in your practice sessions? Anything horn-related that you would specifically like to discuss? Regularly refer to your goals sheets and the technique practice guide. Accept full responsibility for your own musical development and be open to suggestions from others to help you (especially Dr. Foulk) and you will become a better musician.

Listening and Reading Assignments

In the semesters in which listening and/or reading assignments are assigned, all students taking applied lessons with Dr. Foulk are required turn in a response paper each week. Please see the schedule for these assignments, which is posted on the horn studio website and/or the shared Googledrive folder.

Portfolio

All students taking applied lessons with Dr. Foulk are required to turn in a portfolio at the end of each semester. This is a record of all of your musical activities and achievements during a given semester. The contents should be labeled and organized chronologically, with the most recent events first. The portfolio should consist of the following:

- A musical performance **resume** should be the first page of your portfolio. Update it each semester with Dr. Foulk's suggestions and include the old, critiqued resumes behind the new one.
- Next include your current "**Student Profile**" or "**Goals**" handouts (include your old "Student Profile" or "Goals" handouts as well). You only need to fill these out once a year, early in the fall semester.
- Then include the "**Self-Reflection**" form.
- **Additional materials** (optional): recordings of your very best playing/performing (something you might send to a potential employer), recital programs, newspaper articles and reviews, papers or other creative horn-related projects, performances (including studio class), a repertoire list of all solos and major chamber/orchestral works performed, letters or other "smile file" material, etc. The entire portfolio will be returned to you at the end of each semester, so it's o.k. to include original programs, etc.

Accompanists

Although you may be able to find a friend to accompany you without charge (make sure he/she is competent), you should expect to hire accompanists on a regular basis each semester. If your piece requires accompaniment, all performances in studio class, area recitals, most juries and hearings, and solo recitals require an accompanist. Ask other students or me for suggestions or watch for signs posted throughout the School of Music. It is your responsibility to schedule rehearsals and coachings with your accompanist.

Here are some suggestions for having successful relationships and performances with accompanists:

- Establish relationships with accompanists early, before you need one, and get his/her contact information.
- Plan ahead. You should make contact with and give the music to your accompanist at least 6 weeks before the performance (especially if he/she does not know your piece. Allow more time if it is a multi-movement piece or is particularly difficult, such as orchestral transcriptions). Try to schedule rehearsals immediately, which should start at least one month before the performance. Be very clear with all involved as to when and where the rehearsals, coachings, and performances will take place (email is the best way to communicate these things clearly). Last-minute scheduling (the day before or day of)

is a nuisance and is inconvenient for all involved and doesn't set you up for your best performing experience. Plan ahead to get the rehearsal/coaching time and space that you want.

- Know the accompaniment and how your part fits before your first rehearsal.
- The accompanist must attend at least one, ideally two, lessons no later than a week before the performance. If an accompanist can't attend your regular lesson time, you should trade lessons with another student or talk to me about rescheduling. Pieces should not be brought into the lesson unless you've rehearsed at least twice with your accompanist.

It is an expectation of this course that works composed for horn and piano (or orchestral reduction) assigned in lessons will be rehearsed and performed with an accompanist. Using accompanists outside of the university community becomes a liability issue for the university, so please see me to fill out the appropriate paperwork. This includes any accompanist who is not a faculty/staff member or student at WMU.

Performances

ALL students taking lessons with Dr. Foulk must perform in studio class each semester. See the Horn Curriculum Guides for a listing of *required* performances. However, every serious music student should take advantage of every performance opportunity possible. Practice performing and performing becomes a lot easier. All performances do not have to take place on stage in front of many people—practice playing for friends, colleagues, or family members who make you nervous and this will improve your performance skills. Consider giving recitals every year—you don't have to do it alone. Share a recital with a friend or invite your chamber groups to play. See Hill's "Recital are a Good Thing" in this packet for more ideas. Please note that both Dr. Foulk AND another brass/percussion faculty member must hear ALL recitals in a pre-recital hearing, even if the recital is not required. The quality and preparation of both required and non-degree recitals will factor into your lesson grade. You will continue to work on etudes, excerpts, and other fundamentals in lessons while you prepare for your recital.

Studio Loans

Materials borrowed from the horn studio are the personal property of Dr. Foulk or the WMU Horn Studio. Please treat these scores, books, CDs, instruments, etc. with care and return them in a timely fashion (approximately 3 weeks, after which time you will be perpetually harassed and made to feel guilty until the offending items are returned). All materials are due back to the studio at the end of each semester. Students who lose materials or return them in a damaged condition are expected to purchase a replacement copy. Students who fail to return materials or purchase replacement copies will lose all borrowing privileges and receive an "I" on their transcript until the materials are returned or replaced.

Studio Class, Horn Choir, and other Horn-Related Events

Attendance at studio classes is required for all music majors. Let me know if you must miss a studio class at least 24 hours in advance or your attendance grade will be affected. Horn-related events such as faculty and student recitals, guest recitals and master classes, etc. are required as well and you must let me know of your absence 24 hours in advance (work is not a good excuse). If you can't attend a required recital due to a legitimate conflict, attend the dress rehearsal or

another rehearsal (ideal) or borrow a recording of the performance after the fact. Plan ahead and write all events from the horn studio calendar, posted on the horn board each semester, in your own personal calendar. Horn Choir participation is not required, but strongly encouraged for all students in the studio. Do try to attend orchestra and band concerts and chamber recitals of your peers as well. Of course, attending other non-horn recitals is recommended too!

Teaching Private Students on Campus

It is an expectation of this course that you will teach private students as a practical application of techniques learned in lessons. However, the university is responsible for each community member who engages in activities on this campus. Therefore, it is very important that you let me know about your private teaching on campus (there is some paperwork to fill out that both the student's parents and I need to sign).

Ensemble Participation

The Brass and Percussion Area policy dictates, "All undergraduate applied students must play in a major ensemble." My policy for horn students is a bit more specific: undergraduate students (including non-music majors) must participate in a large ensemble in the semesters in which applied lessons are required, unless there are unusual needs of the ensembles which require more or less students to participate (this is at my discretion). Pending audition, undergraduates may participate in any or all of the major ensembles and are required to fulfill the School of Music ensemble credit requirements.

Graduate students—both GAs must participate in the Symphonic Band during its tour semester (so the GBQ and GWQ can perform on tour as well), which is usually in the spring. In addition the new GA will also be assigned to Orchestra in the spring. In the fall semester the seasoned GA is assigned to Orchestra while the new GA is assigned to Symphonic Band. Both GAs may perform in both ensembles in any given semester. When GAs are placed in two large ensembles, they only need to register for one (register for USO in fall and USB in spring).

Part assignments usually rotate in Orchestra and Symphonic Band and the ensemble directors and/or Dr. Foulk will determine these assignments.

International Horn Society

All serious horn students are strongly encouraged to become members of the International Horn Society (\$35). See www.hornsociety.org for more information (a membership form is included in this packet). Benefits include subscriptions to *The Horn Call* and discounts for IHS events. *The Horn Call* is devoted exclusively to horn-related topics, including music and recording reviews; advertisements for horns, mouthpieces, music, and other equipment; and articles about pedagogy, history, literature, and biographical sketches. Each summer the IHS sponsors a week-long workshop featuring many of the great horn artists of the world, with recitals, master classes, lectures, instrument and music exhibits, and endless impromptu horn quartet playing. In fact, the 33rd International Horn Symposium was held at Western Michigan University June 4-9, 2001. Membership in the IHS and periodic participation at IHS workshops are musts for the serious hornist.

Opportunities and Announcements

Please check the horn board (the bulletin board just outside my office) regularly for announcements and other information of interest to horn players.

General Tips for Improvement

Take advantage of as many playing opportunities as is possible. Perform often and you will become a better performer. Include listening to classical music in your weekly practice routine. Have a listening acquaintance with all standard horn solos and excerpts. Listen to the entire piece to understand the context of the excerpts you are learning. Listen to other works by a composer whose concerto you're working on. Listen to other works in the same time period of the solo you are working on. Listen with careful attention to as much as you can and you will become a better horn player and musician.

University Policies

Students are responsible for making themselves aware of and understanding the University policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. The academic policies addressing Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog at <http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=974> and the Graduate Catalog at <http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=25&navoid=1030>. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s) and if you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Students and instructors are responsible for making themselves aware of and abiding by the "Western Michigan University Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Policy and Procedures" related to prohibited sexual misconduct under Title IX, the Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Campus Safe. Under this policy, responsible employees (including instructors) are required to report claims of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or designee (located in the Office of Institutional Equity). Responsible employees are not confidential resources. For a complete list of resources and more information about the policy see www.wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct.

In addition, students are encouraged to access the Code of Conduct, as well as resources and general academic policies on such issues as diversity, religious observance, and student disabilities:

- Office of Student Conduct www.wmich.edu/conduct
- Division of Student Affairs www.wmich.edu/students/diversity
- University Relations Office <http://www.wmich.edu/policies/religious-observances-policy>
- Disability Services for Students www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices

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