MUS : Private Double Bass Lessons Course Syllabus

Course Meeting Time: By Appointment
Course Location: Patterson Hall (PH)

Instructor: Justin Bendel, M.M.
Office Hours: by appointment
E-mail: JBass5@gmail.com

Course Description:

Music major: Weekly, one hour private lessons. A ten-minute juried performance at the end of the semester is required. The jury program shall be chosen from the literature covered in the lessons during that semester. For each semester beyond the fourth of private lesson study, the student is required to prepare a new work for performance at the jury without the instructor’s assistance. A piano accompanist is required for all programmed jury pieces that have accompaniment parts. In addition, participation in the weekly string master class and the twice weekly colloquium is required. Performing once a semester in colloquium is also required.

Music minor: Weekly, one hour private lessons. A ten-minute juried performance at the end of the semester is required. The jury program shall be chosen from the literature covered in the lessons during that semester. For each semester beyond the fourth of private lesson study, the student is required to prepare a new work for performance at the jury without the instructor’s assistance. A piano accompanist is required for all programmed jury pieces that have accompaniment parts. Participation in colloquium and the string master class is not required. Prerequisite: Actively pursuing the chosen music major or minor. Permission of the instructor. Credit: 1 semester hour. Students must attain a grade of B- or higher in order for this course to count toward the music major or music minor.

Elected lessons: Weekly, one-half hour private lessons. Participation in colloquium and the string master class is not required. A jury is not required. This course has an associated private lesson fee. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Credit: 1 semester hour.

Course Outcomes: The student will be able to demonstrate improvement on the double bass through the performance of scales, etudes, and solo works. This improvement will be evaluated through the jury at the end of the semester.

Required Course Materials: Each student is required to maintain a spiral-bound notebook in which to take lesson notes, notate goals, and to log questions for the instructor. Each student must also have a functioning metronome, a functioning tuner, and an extra set of strings. The student is responsible for obtaining all of the printed materials needed for their lesson. Finally,
the student is also responsible for making sure that his/her personal instrument is kept in good care.

**Attendance:** As with any class, students are expected to attend all lessons. Should there be any reason that there is a conflict with a scheduled lesson, the student must inform the instructor immediately via email. The lesson will then be rescheduled based upon the availability of the instructor. If a student does not show for a lesson, the lesson will be forfeit and the student will receive a failing grade for that lesson. Lack of preparation is no excuse for rescheduling lessons.

**Required Performances/Recitals:** Sophomores will be required to prepare to perform for their Sophomore Hearings. Seniors will be required to register for either MUS 601 Capstone Recital or MUS 602 Capstone Lecture Recital depending on their degree program.

**Grading:** Lessons will be evaluated based on preparation, improvement, and the meeting of established goals. It is therefore imperative for the student to organize their schedule in such a way that permits frequent in-depth practicing. The standard upon which each lesson will be evaluated will be based on the established weekly goals agreed upon from the previous lesson. In addition, each lesson will be graded on a 0-4 scale as follows:
- 4 All goals met. Outstanding quality.
- 3 All goals met. Acceptable quality.
- OR Most goals met. Outstanding quality.
- OR Few goals met. Acceptable quality.
- 2 Most goals met. Acceptable quality.
- OR Few goals met. Outstanding quality.
- 1 Few goals met.
- 0 No goals met OR lesson missed


The grade from the string master class (MUS 600M) is integrated into the private lesson grade. Therefore:
- For MUS: Music Major
  - Private Lesson: 80% of final grade
  - Masterclass: 10% of final grade
- For MUS 343: Music Minor
  - Music MUS 342: Elected Lessons
  - Private Lesson: 90% of final grade
  - Private Lesson: 100% of final grade
  - Jury: 10% of final grade

**E-mail and Computer Use:** Students are required to use the [Westminster.edu](http://Westminster.edu) e-mail account and network accounts, or must have their e-mails forwarded from [Westminster.edu](http://Westminster.edu) to another account. In addition, students are required to check e-mail with reasonable frequency, preferably every day, as important course updates may occur via e-mail rather than in class, in an effort to preserve valuable class time. If e-mail accounts are too full or over quota, I will NOT resend e-mails; students are required to monitor the quotas on their accounts. Additionally, all class information will be posted on My.Westminster.

**Academic Honesty:** This course conforms to Westminster College’s Academic Integrity policy as found in the student handbook.
**Student Support Services and Special Accommodations:** Students who have special needs that may affect their academic or personal life should seek resources on campus to assist them, such as Disability Support, the Learning Center, Diversity Services, and Library Instruction. In this course, accommodations consistent with college policy will be made for students who are utilizing appropriate support services. After consulting with the appropriate support service, students are encouraged to speak with me in a confidential appointment about necessary accommodations.

**Note on Cellphone Use:** Cellphones must be silenced during the lesson. No texting is permitted.