Brass Masterclass
Course Syllabus, Fall 2018, Spring 2019
MUS 600M-06 Horn Master Class/Brass Masterclass
Heather Johnson, Adjunct Faculty, 724-992-8332
Time: Tuesdays, 2:50-3:30 (with some exceptions. See Colloquium schedule)

I. Required Texts:

Music for study and articles for review and discussion will be supplied by the teacher.

II. Course Requirements:

Class Attendance – Class meets once weekly, more than two unexcused absences will result in an automatic lowering of the grade one letter. A request for an excused absences be emailed in writing to Ms. Johnson in advance. The student is responsible for all material covered in the class missed. Students are expected to come to class warmed up and ready to play, and with the previous weeks’ assignments completed.

Student Supplemental Listening – Students will be required to listen to recordings of assigned pieces, especially to study complete recordings even if only a small excerpt will be examined in class.

Tests and Quizzes – short quizzes will be given throughout the semester (30% of the final grade). Participation in class discussions is mandatory and constitutes (30%). Students will give one presentation per semester for (20%), and take a brief final for only (20%)—the aim being to encourage learning throughout the semester, not just at the end.

Content – Students will learn the history of brass instruments, specifically the properties of a vibrating air column within a conical, closed end tube. This knowledge is applicable today. Students will also learn common pedagogy practices, how to manage their practice time, and techniques for addressing stage fright and intonation issues. We will discuss multiple approaches to warming up, learning new music and improving playing technique. The course will be run in group discussion style. Small performances by each student in front of the class will aid in easing future public performances. Some ensemble sightreading will be done.

III. Grading Scale:

93-100 %= A, 90-92 = A-, 84-89 = B, 80-83 = B-, 74-79 = C, 70-73 = C-, 64-69 = D, 60-63 = D-, 59-1%= F

IV. Outcomes and Assessment:

Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the history and workings of brass instruments, and demonstrate a solid pedagogical approach to teaching their future students about brass instruments.

V. Academic Integrity:

This policy is readily available in the First year guide (pg. 159) as well as the Student Handbook (pg. 22) and on the Westminster College web-site. You should become acquainted with this policy.

VI. Students with Disabilities:

Westminster College is committed to providing services and support for students with physical, psychological, visual, hearing or learning disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students who seek accommodations for diagnosed disabilities should contact the director of the Office of Disability Resources for further information.