Bassoon Classes

Western University

Alexandre von Wartburg
GROUP WOODWIND 2 INSTRUCTION
Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00-9:00pm
MB-241
Term 1 - 2866 003 Q/R, Term 2 - 2866 003 S/T

Instructor and Contact Information:
Alexandre von Wartburg
Office hours by appointment only
Phone: 519-661-2111
Email: avonwart@uwo.ca

Topics:
In this course you will learn the basic study of the bassoon. We will be focusing on essential skills such as breathing, fingering, tonguing and embouchure. There will be an emphasis on learning major scales up to two sharps and flats. All aspects of playing the bassoon will be discussed.

Students will be given theoretical study in making and adjusting reeds. Instrument suitability for beginners will be investigated. Bassoon methods, literature, fingering charts and related reading will be examined. Simple bassoon repair and maintenance will be demonstrated, as well as regulation of the mechanism. Classes will be held in masterclass style.

Required Material:
Your bassoon! (pick it up BEFORE YOUR FIRST CLASS from Len Ingrao’s office)
Weissenborn Bassoon Method – Available in the CBO
Music stand
Water container to soak your reed
Reeds are available for purchase from Long and McQuade for around $20-$25. Please do not purchase plastic reeds! Some reeds will be available for purchase at the first class.
pencil, paper, or writing tablet

Mark Distribution (50%):
10% Playing Test 1
10% Playing Test 2
15% Log Book
15% Final Exam
**Tentative Outline of Topics and Assignments**

Please note that this schedule may have to change due to unanticipated circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Focus</th>
<th>Performance Focus</th>
<th>Assignments, Tests</th>
<th>Test Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction, parts of the bassoon, assembly, cleaning, posture, embouchure, sound production</td>
<td>Scales : C, F</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>The bassoon reed : parts, dimensions controlling the 1st wire Writing basic fingerings</td>
<td>Scale : C, F, Eb (open F to low C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>« General maintenance » ½ hole notes Reed Making</td>
<td>Tenor register (open F to D) ½ holes octave/flick keys</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Suppliers, Purchasing reeds Tuning</td>
<td>F#, C# Tenor register (Eb to F)</td>
<td>Playing Test 1 : Sweet Betsy Scales : C, F, Bb (open F to low C)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Revision for Final Exam And Playing Test 2</td>
<td>Guest Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Playing Test 2 : Pirates, or Titanic Scales : F, D (2 octaves) Log Book Final Exam</td>
<td>10% 15% 15%</td>
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**Bassoon Log Book (15%)**

The Log Book is a supplement to your handouts
It may be complete by a team of 2-3 students

- Title
- Table of Contents

Introduction
- Parts of the Bassoon
- Bassoon Case Contents
- How to assemble
- How to swab
- Posture (sitting, standing)

Sound Production
- Crowing the reed, reed on bocal, first notes
- Tuning, intonation
- Articulation
- Flicking Technique

The Reed
- Basic reed care
- Adjusting the wires
- Parts if the reed
- Dimensions
- Construction
- Trouble shooting
- Purchasing reeds

Maintenance
- General maintenance
- Issues with whisper key locks
- How to carry a bassoon around

Non-compulsory subjects
- Breathing
- History of the bassoon
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Discipline in the classroom
- General tips
- Report cards
- Pictures
- Other resources
Playing Tests (10% each)
Posture and embouchure
Note and rhythm accuracy
Articulation
(Tone quality and dynamics)

Recommended Books and Readings:

Periodicals
The Double Reed - ML1.D683
The International Double Reed Society Journal - ML1.I56

Books
McKay, James. The bassoon reed manual: Lou Skinner’s theories and techniques.

Method Books
Attendance Policy
An unexcused absence will result in a loss of 2 marks from the attendance component of your overall evaluation (i.e., one unexcused absence equals 2 out of 10). Failure to appear for a scheduled exam session (without documented medical evidence) will result in a mark of zero for that test/exam. Students with 4 or more unexcused absences will be referred to the Chair of the Department and will be in jeopardy of failing the course.

Absences will be excused only if:

1) Student is involved in official UWO business that has been approved by the chair or the instructor;
2) Documented Family issue;
3) Documented family or personal illness.

Tardiness
Arriving late for two classes is equivalent to one unexcused absence.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
No electronic devices are allowed in class during quizzes, tests and examinations.

PREREQUISITES
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness may be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

MENTAL HEALTH
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.