

**MUS 320 (2) Pedagogy for Beginning Band Instruments**  
**Fall, 2011**

**Instructor: John Rack, Ph.D.**

**Office: CA1053 Phone: 962-3729 Email: [rackj@uncw.edu](mailto:rackj@uncw.edu) Office Hrs: TBA**

**Catalogue Description:**

Principles for teaching beginners on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.  
Field experience required.

The emphasis in this course is on one-on-one or like-instrument instruction, not band rehearsal techniques.

Field experience is a principle element of the course and includes observation and participation in public, private, or community music school teaching of beginning instrumentalists.

**Prerequisites:**

MUS 244 Instrumental Techniques I and MUS 245 Instrumental Techniques II.

**Text:**

The Teaching of Instrumental Music, R. Colwell & T. Goolsby. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the following and the ability to guide school-age students in the beginning steps of learning the same objectives:

1. Embouchure formation for wind instruments
2. Techniques for characteristic tone production on band instruments
3. Articulation techniques for band instruments
4. Basic fingering techniques for band instruments

Students will also demonstrate an understanding of the following:

5. Guidelines for the selection of instruments, reeds, mouthpieces, sticks and mallets for beginners on band instruments
6. Basics of care, maintenance and repairs of band instruments

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction identifies certain pedagogical knowledge, skills and dispositions in the "Standards for Music Teacher Candidates". Those pertinent to this course are:

1. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate music and musical performances.
2. Demonstrate basic instrumental skills.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of technology as a vital delivery system for teaching and learning music.
4. Use critical thinking to make personal judgments about music through verbal expression.

**Topics:**

Each stage of the course will address woodwinds, brass, and to an extent, percussion together.

- Embouchure formation
- First sounds – breath support, initial fingerings, concept of characteristic sound/tone
- Posture, tension
- Additional fingerings and music selection
- Tonguing
- Percussion specifics – technique, tone production

Text organization:

- Woodwinds: chapters 8-14 (11,12 delayed)
- Brass: chapters 15-20 (16, 20 delayed)
- Percussion: chapter 21

**Special Topics – Research Assignments:**

Each student will research and present to the class information on one special topic, such as:

- Best starting note options
- Technical and musical development in the beginner – what to play
- How to promote “quality” breathing
- Choosing an instrument – identify quality characteristics and best price
- Routine care of instruments
- Online resources for a teacher of beginning instrumentalists

**Field experiences:**

Following the initial lecture meetings one class meeting per week will be in the field. This will likely begin with a short period of observation before hands-on teaching begins.

**Evaluation:**

There will be a written test on assigned reading and lecture material at the end of each unit (15% for each test, 3 tests = 45% total of final grade).

At the conclusion of the field experiences a student’s performance will be scored as either “above proficient”, “proficient”, or “below proficient” on the first four learning outcomes listed above. This 45% of the final grade is determined by the following:

- A = scored proficient or higher in all 4 areas
- B = scored proficient or higher in at least 3 of the 4 areas and no area was scored below proficient
- C = scored below proficient in 1 of the 4 areas
- D = scored below proficient in 2 of the 4 areas
- F = scored below proficient in 3 or more of the 4 areas

Research topic & presentation (10% of final grade)

**The University Learning Center**, located in DePaolo Hall (x27857), will provide free content tutoring for all basic studies courses. They also provide study skills support for students seeking to strengthen their general academic skills. All Learning Center tutoring is by appointment only.

**Accommodations for Disabled Students:** Your instructor is happy to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities, as specified in federal regulations. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please register in the Office of Disability Services (x27555). Then obtain a copy of your accommodation letter and speak with the instructor. Assistance will be provided based on the recommendations of that office and our mutual agreement.

**Academic Honor Code:** The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to the proposition that the pursuit of truth requires the presence of honesty among all involved. It is therefore this institution's stated policy that no form of dishonesty among its faculty or students will be tolerated. Although members of the university community are encouraged to report occurrences of dishonesty, each individual is principally responsible for his or her own honesty.

All students are encouraged to read section V "Academic Honor Code", in the UNCW Student Handbook, for definitions of plagiarism, bribery, and cheating, and the procedures for reporting and adjudication of any activities involving student dishonesty.

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