

**RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE  
FALL 2010  
COURSE SYLLABUS -- BRASS CLASS**

Course #:	MUS 110	Credit:	2 hrs
Meets:	M,W,F, 11:00 - 11:50 AM	Location:	NCPA 198
Instructor:	Prof. Joseph Foley Prof. Kevin Kane	Office:	NCPA 249
Phone:	456-9504	Office Hours:	Posted
E-mail:	jfoley@ric.edu		

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The basic techniques of brass instrument performance are studied. Pedagogy and basic teaching materials are also considered.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Whitener, S. (1997). *A complete guide to brass: instruments and technique* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Schirmer Books.

- Various beginning methods books supplied by the instructor. These must be returned in good condition.
- Instruments will be provided by the college and must be returned in good condition. Students are responsible for any loss or damage to instruments.
- A 3-ring binder for collecting class notes and handouts from the instructors.

**COURSE GOAL:**

To be able to perform at an intermediate level on at least two brass instruments, with characteristic tone quality and acceptable intonation; technique and range should be of approximately a grade II solo.

- To be able to teach beginners on brass instruments, diagnosing common problems and prescribing appropriate solutions.
- To acquire a thorough knowledge base about various concepts of brass playing and teaching, including acoustics, intonation tendencies, breathing, articulation, playing position, and instrument care, among others.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

- The class will be divided into two groups, trumpet and trombone. For the first half of the semester, students will study their instrument in homogenous groups (all trumpets together, all trombones together) under the guidance of the instructor. The groups will switch at mid-semester, and the students who have studied the trumpet will now teach the trumpet to the new trumpet players (same with trombone). Students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency on at least two brass instruments. Other instruments such as horn, euphonium and tuba may be studied by individuals based on progress and prior experience.
- Frequent playing tests will be given (usually once a week), and students are expected to practice outside of class for about 20 minutes a day. The physical nature of brass playing magnifies the benefit of frequent, short practice sessions. "Cramming" just does not work! A midterm and final playing exam will be given.

- Assigned reading in the text will be the subject of occasional quizzes (also, usually once a week-possibly to be given online.)
- Students will write two quiz questions based on each reading assignment. These will form the quiz that will be given on the following day. There will also be a written final at the end of the semester.
- A well-organized notebook of class notes, fingering charts, intonation profiles, and handouts will form the summative written evaluation for the course. Notebooks are due at the last class session
- Students will also be expected to arrange a short piece for brass to demonstrate knowledge of brass transpositions, range, etc.

### GRADING PROCEDURES

40%	Playing quizzes and exams	•100-93 = A
10%	Questions from assigned reading	• 90-92 = A-
40%	Written quizzes and exams	• 88-89 = B+
10%	Notebook content and organization	• 83-87 = B
		• 80-82 = B-
		• 78-79 = C+
		• 73-77 = C
		• 70-72 = C-
		• 60-69 = D
		• 00-59 = F

An “A” grade is defined by the college as superior or excellent work.

A “B” grade is defined as good work.

A “C” grade is defined as satisfactory work.

A “D” grade is defined as less than satisfactory work.

“F” is unsatisfactory work.

### MINIMUM GRADE REQUIREMENT (NEW FALL 2010)

A minimum grade of C is required in all required music courses. Music education professional courses require a grade of B- or better. Courses subject to this policy are listed below. Students who earn less than the minimum grade will have to repeat that course, earning a C or better before the course will count toward fulfilling curricular requirements in their program. Furthermore, in courses that are sequential (e.g., Music Theory, Sight Singing and Ear Training, etc.), students with any grade of C- or lower will not be allowed to continue in the sequence until such grade has been raised to C or better by repeating the course.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is required. Each student is allowed 3 absences during the semester for religious holidays, transportation emergencies, etc. Any absences beyond these 3 will result in a lower grade for the course (1/3 letter grade per cut [e.g. B+ to B]). Illnesses will be excused only with a note from physician, health center, etc.

Playing tests and quizzes will be made up at the instructor's discretion.