

**MUSC 1570, 1580, 2370, 2380, 2570, 2580, 3370, 3380,
3570, 3580, 4370, 4380, 4570, 4580, 5370, 5380**
Low Brass Ensembles
University of Mississippi Department of Music
Fall 2026
M 6-9pm, Location: 146 Music Building

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Prerequisites

Participation in these ensembles is open to all low brass players regardless of major with permission of the instructor. Music major low brass players enrolled in applied lessons are expected to participate.

Purposes

The University of Mississippi Trombone Ensemble, Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, and associated smaller ensembles serve the following purposes:

- To serve as an extension of the private lesson, supplementing and enhancing the study of playing fundamentals provided in the weekly private lesson.
- To develop ensemble playing skills, especially regarding balance, articulation, interpretation, and intonation.
- To develop sight reading skills and knowledge of literature by reading a great deal of original literature and transcriptions for low brass ensembles.
- To provide students, especially future educators, with opportunities for score study and ensemble conducting.
- To present high-quality concerts both on and off campus.

Instructional Methods

This course will consist primarily of corporate playing work by ensemble members, conducted by the instructor. The instructor will give verbal commentary and suggestions for improvement, and will occasionally demonstrate these suggestions on his instrument. At times, a student will be asked to fill the role of conductor while the instructor plays in the ensemble. This provides extra conducting and teaching experience for the future music teacher.

Graduate students will be expected to assume conducting and management responsibilities beyond those required of undergraduate students. These responsibilities might include assigning parts, preparing folders, making travel arrangements, conducting rehearsals, conducting portions of concerts, composing or arranging music for performance, coordinating small ensembles taken from the larger group, or other, related tasks. In short, graduate students will be expected to share some of the teaching responsibilities in the ensemble, under the instructor's supervision.

Smaller ensembles such as trios, quartets, and quintets will be formed on an as-desired basis, often at the instigation of students, though these may be required for both undergraduate and graduate performance majors and registered for separately under the x370 and x380 course numbers.

Attendance and Grading

All ensembles depend upon the consistent presence and dedication of EACH member in order to be successful. Each student that registers to receive academic credit for ensemble participation will receive a grade for each rehearsal. Timely attendance will result in a grade of "A+" (12), tardy attendance without excuse will result in a grade of "C" (5), and unexcused absence will result in a grade of "F" (0).

If an absence or tardy becomes necessary for medical or other legitimate reasons, please contact the instructor, in advance if possible, to be excused.

For students that register for academic credit for ensemble participation (using the x570 and x580 course numbers), the weekly rehearsal grades will be averaged to determine the final grade. A twelve (12)-point scale will determine these letter grades as follows:

"A+"	(12)	"B+"	(9)	"C+"	(6)	"D+	(3)	"F"	(0)
"A"	(11)	"B"	(8)	"C"	(5)	"D"	(2)		
"A-"	(10)	"B-"	(7)	"C-"	(4)	"D-"	(1)		

Additionally, an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance will result in a semester grade of "F."

Grading for small ensembles will be a bit more *ad hoc* than for the larger groups, and will be determined by quality and consistency of attendance and participation in rehearsals, and success in performance.

Materials

Students will receive printed and electronic copies of most or all of the performance and reading music for the semester. If the printed copies are lost the student will be responsible for reprinting those parts, at his or her expense. Additionally, for some rehearsals sightreading materials will be distributed at the beginning of rehearsal and collected at the end.

Performances

Although the primary purpose of these ensembles is pedagogical, on and/or off-campus performances will be scheduled from time to time. These will be planned well in advance and will be scheduled at the most convenient times possible. The instructor reserves the right to schedule extra rehearsals in advance of a scheduled performance. See above for penalties for absence from a performance.

Professional Association Membership

Events sponsored by the International Trombone Association (www.trombone.net) and International Tuba-Euphonium Association (www.iteaonline.org) may require that attendees and program participants be members of the sponsoring organization. If an ensemble is invited to participate in such an event ensemble members will be required to purchase student memberships, which are very reasonably priced. (Music majors should expect to purchase memberships anyway.)

Communication

The effective functioning of these ensembles requires more frequent communication between instructor and students than is necessary in many other courses. Each student is expected to ensure that the instructor has an accurate and functioning email address and cell phone number for him or her, and to check email and the studio GroupMe regularly for communications from the instructor. Not checking email or GroupMe is **not** a valid excuse for failure to execute instructions or respond to information received from the instructor. The instructor may elect to contact students via text message, Facebook Messenger, or other means if he thinks that will be most effective.

Disability Accommodations

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities which have been verified through the Office of Student Disability Services are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

Physical Contact Clause

In teaching and developing the physical aspects of playing the instrument it may become necessary in rare instances for some limited physical contact between the instructor and the student to take place, so that the instructor can correctly evaluate what the student is doing physically while playing and diagnose any problems. Such contact will occur very infrequently, if ever, and will be strictly professional in nature. The instructor will inform the student immediately before contact will take place, and will ask if the student is comfortable with this method of diagnosis before proceeding. If the student is uncomfortable with such contact taking place alternative forms of diagnosis will be used.

Continuation of Instruction in Emergency Circumstances

Should an emergency situation lead to closure of the university campus and necessitate a shift to remote teaching and learning ensemble activities will continue in a necessarily truncated fashion. While specific plans will be made at the instructor's discretion and according to applicable university and music department policies, the most likely scenario will be assigned activities in which students collaborate remotely to create multitrack audio and/or video recordings of ensemble music. The instructor will provide guidance and assistance throughout this process. In situations where full closure is avoided but shorter meeting times are prescribed scheduling and programming will be modified accordingly.