

APPLIED BASSOON AND GRADUATE RECITAL

MUS 6973 INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

-Spring 2026-

Class Meeting location, times, and sections:

STUDIO: Mondays—6th Period (12:50PM-1:40PM) MUB 142

LESSONS: TBD with each student on an individual basis (MUB 301)

Instructor

Dr. Shannon Lowe

slowe@arts.ufl.edu

352.273.3185

Office: 301 MUB

Office Hours: As posted on door and canvas; also by appointment

Reed Making Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

Study in the University of Florida Bassoon Studio encompasses a curriculum that is designed to mold bassoonists into musicians who are empathetic, knowledgeable, confident, successful, and supportive of their peers. Through highly individualized instruction, experiences, peer collaborations/interactions, and performances, students are prepared to be confident in diverse musical settings. This Individual Project course will also include a degree recital and program notes component.

All students in the studio will take part in the following:

- Weekly private lessons with the instructor that focus on developing technique, tone, musicianship, and confidence on the bassoon.
- Weekly studio classes that include topics such as performance issues, reed making, ensemble playing, master classes with guest artists, etc.
- Graduate Degree Recital with Program Notes and Audience Engagement Component

Course Objectives

By studying in the bassoon studio, students will be able to:

- Perform and interpret bassoon works encompassing multiple styles (from Western civilization to other world cultures) and bassoon works written by a wide range of composers
- Present performances of solo and chamber repertoire in a variety of styles and settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply analytical and historical knowledge to live performance.
- Demonstrate an increasingly advanced level of performance skill throughout their studies.
- Critically reflect upon their technical and musical abilities and implement plans for improving these areas outside of lessons

Required Texts, Materials, Resources, Equipment

Students are expected and required to purchase equipment including reeds/cane, reed-making tools, tuners, and metronomes as well as music/texts* assigned in lessons. The instructor will provide students with a list of resources to help locate/purchase music, reeds, equipment, etc.

- The ownership of a tuner and metronome is mandatory! *Note: phone tuning/metronome apps count!*
- The student must have playable reeds <see reed clause below>

**If music and/or texts required for performance or lessons cannot be borrowed from the library, it is the student's responsibility to acquire these materials. If the student plans on having a teaching and/or performance career involving the*

bassoon, it is necessary for the student to own a collection of performance pieces, texts, etude books, tools, equipment, method books, etc. If the student has any barriers preventing them from acquiring materials, they must communicate with the instructor so that a solution can be arrived upon.

Materials and Supply Fee

- MUS 6973 None

Course Outline for Bassoon Studio

***Course outline/topics subject to change. Students will be given due notice if any changes are made.*

Weeks	Topic(s)**	Notes:
1 January 12th	Welcome Back, Bassoon Ensemble Music Distributed, and Professionalism Presentation and Discussion Dr. Lowe Chamber Music Recital: Sunday, January 18th 5:10pm MUB 101	MUB 142
2 January 19 th	NO STUDIO OR LESSONS—MLK Day	
3 January 26 th	Bassoon Ensemble Dr. Lowe Performs on Faculty Spectrum Chamber Music Recital: Saturday, January 31st 7:20pm MUB 101	MUB 142
4 February 2 nd	Bassoon Ensemble	MUB 142
5 February 9 th	Woodwind Area Recital	MUB 101
6 February 16 th	Bassoon Ensemble	MUB 142
7 February 23 rd	Woodwind Area Recital	MUB 101
8 March 2 nd	Kaelin Presentation: "History of the Bassoon"	MUB 142
9 March 9 th	Woodwind Area Recital	MUB 101
10 March 16 th -22 nd	NO STUDIO OR LESSONS-SPRING BREAK UF Double Reed Day Sunday, March 22nd 9am-4pm	**All Music Majors/MM/DMA students required to attend UF Double Reed Day!
11 March 23 rd	Guest Masterclass: Dr. Leigh Munoz, Bassoon Professor at UMKC Double Reed Studios Recital: Sunday, March 29th 3:00pm MUB 101 Kaelin Graduate Recital: Sunday, March 29th 7:20pm MUB 101	MUB 142
12 March 30 th	Woodwind Area Recital	MUB 101
13 April 6 th	Sight Reading Musical Chairs Michael Junior Recital: Friday, April 10th 8:20pm MUB 120	MUB 142
14 April 13 th	Woodwind Area Recital	MUB 101
15 April 20 th	Bassoon Book Club: Individual Presentations	MUB 142
16 April 27 th	Woodwind Juries (MUB 145)	All required to do a jury, unless you had a recital that occurred after Spring break.

Components of Evaluation

- Lesson Performance and Preparation (30%)**— To make improvements on the bassoon and as a musician, it is expected that students prepare their assigned exercises, etudes, pieces, etc. between lessons. Each lesson will be assigned with a grade following the rubric below.

Lesson Grading Rubric	
100-90	Well prepared; many improvements made from previous week; great effort during lesson
80-89	Somewhat well prepared with some improvements made from previous week; good effort
70-79	Not very well prepared with very little improvements made from previous week; mediocre effort
60-69	Poorly prepared with no improvement made from previous week; poor effort
0-59	No preparation, no improvements made, no effort; unexcused missed lesson

- **Weekly Recording and Reflection Assignment (15%)**— Each student will be given a weekly online recording assignment that could consist of, but would not be limited to, technical exercises, etudes, repertoire, and excerpts. Once assigned, the student is responsible for submitting to Canvas an audio recording of their assigned work as well as providing a brief written reflection evaluating their goals and outcome of their practice sessions for the week. **The deadline for each weekly recording assignment and reflection is by 11:59pm the day before the assigned lesson time.**
- **Weekly Newly Finished Reed (15%)**— The student must bring in a newly finished reed (it cannot be one that was played on in any previous lesson) to the lesson every week and play on it for a portion of the lesson.
- **History of the Bassoon PowerPoint Presentation (10%)**—[due posted to Canvas by 11:59pm on Friday, February 27th]
The student will design a PowerPoint presentation that outlines the history of the bassoon, from its beginnings to its modern state. The PowerPoint should be designed with pictures and links to audio/video.
- **Bassoon Book Club Presentation (10%)**— Each student will choose and read a book (of their choice) over the course of the semester that is about music in some way. The book must be approved by the instructor by the third week of classes and there cannot be overlap between books (students cannot all read the same book). On Monday, April 20th during studio class, the student will give a 5–7-minute PowerPoint (or other presentation like program) presentation sharing a synopsis and review (what they learned from reading the book, notable passages, etc.). Students must upload the presentation to canvas by Sunday, April 19th 11:59pm.
- **Graduate Recital Performance including Program Notes and Audience Engagement Component (20%)** – Students will collaborate with the instructor to craft and perform graduate recital program of 60-75 minutes of music which includes a work by a living composer.
 - **Audience Engagement Component:** the student will craft a written outline of talking points about each work on their program to share with the instructor a week before their scheduled recital. During the recital, the student will use those talking points to briefly introduce each piece on their program. The spoken component should be tailored to engage the audience with what the student is about to perform (not a verbatim reading of program notes).
 - Students are responsible for submitting a completed program (using the provided recital program template with correct title, composer, and dates) to the instructor no later than one week before the scheduled recital jury and submitting the finalized version to the SoM Logistics Canvas Page no later than 2 weeks before the recital. Failure to do so will result in a 5%-point deduction from the recital grade.
 - Students are responsible for working with their professor, recital jury committee (comprised of one WW Area professor and one Outside Area professor), and collaborative pianist (or other collaborators) to coordinate and schedule a recital jury no less than TWO AND A HALF WEEKS before the scheduled recital
 - Students are responsible for scheduling their dress rehearsal with the SoM Director of Operations at a day/time that works for all involved, including the instructor.
 - Students are responsible for contacting a collaborative pianist (if any works include a keyboard part) immediately and securing their services.
 - It is students' responsibility to provide the collaborative pianist and any other collaborative musicians with scores and payment for services (if payment is required).
 - It is students' responsibility to set up ALL rehearsals w collaborative pianist.

Evaluation MUS 6973	
Lesson Performance and Preparation	30%
Weekly Recording Assignment and Reflection	15%
Weekly Newly Finished Reed	15%
Graduate Recital Performance (including Program Notes and Audience Engagement)	20%
History of Bassoon PowerPoint Presentation	10%
Bassoon Book Club Presentation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Overall Grading Scale**

Grade	Percent Grade	Points
A	93.4-100	4.00
A-	90.0-93.3	3.67
B+	86.7-89.9	3.33
B	83.4-86.6	3.00
B-	80.0-83.3	2.67
C+	76.7-79.9	2.33
C	73.4-76.6	2.00
C-	70.0-73.3	1.67
D+	66.7-69.9	1.33
D	63.4-66.6	1.00
D-	60.0-63.3	0.67
E	0-59.9	0.00

*** The instructor reserves the right to not round up a student's grade to the next letter grade.*

*More information on grades and grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Academic Policies and Student Resources

Students can access the University of Florida's academic policies and student resources at the following link:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>

Bassoon Studio/Course Policies

- Cell phones, MP3 players, laptop computers, and other electronic devices are **not to be used for non-bassoon studio related purposes during studio, Woodwind Area Meetings, performances, or lessons** as they disrupt students' attention and are a distraction to all. Any non-studio use of these devices **will result** in a dismissal from the lesson/studio class/performance and an assigned unexcused absence for the day. If a student needs to use an electronic device due to a documented disability, he/she/they needs to notify the instructor immediately so accommodations can be made.
- Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for lessons. The instructor will not make up time for students who arrive to lessons without a valid, verifiable excuse.
- If the student encounters difficulties keeping up with their weekly assignments, it is crucial they communicate with their instructor that a personally manageable assignment load can be crafted.
- It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their weekly lesson assignments (note: *this component is separate from the weekly recording and reflection assignment that the instructor will post on Canvas for each student that this applies to*). Though the instructor will strive to post weekly lesson summaries for each student, they may not be posted immediately after the lesson or could not be posted at all if there are weeks where the instructor is unable to do so. It is a courtesy that the instructor provides these summaries and not a guarantee.

- Rarely, there may be a case where the instructor will be unable to instruct a lesson (for example: due to illness, guest recital performance out of town, etc.). If this is the case, the instructor will work to arrange one of the following: a virtual lesson on the day/time of the originally scheduled lesson or a lesson makeup scheduled on a mutually agreed upon day/time after the missed lesson. Students will be given advance notice if the instructor will need to miss a lesson.
- **Attendance Policy:**
Requirements for class attendance and make-up work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>
 - It is the expectation that students enrolled in studio attend all lessons, studio classes, student woodwind area recitals/meetings, fellow bassoon studio members' recitals, the instructor's recital performances, and other double reed events. If a student encounters an issue attending one of the above, they must communicate with the instructor as soon as possible.
 - Students will be extended **two (2) lesson drops** they can utilize without impacting their weekly assignment and lesson grade for any reason of their choosing. The instructor just asks for prior notification as soon as possible through email or text message if the student would like to utilize one of these drops.
- **Lesson Make-up Policy:**
 - If students suspect they have an illness or are actually sick, they **SHOULD NOT** attend their in-person lesson and should notify the instructor immediately by email or text message.
 - The instructor will work with the student to reschedule a lesson (or swap lesson with another studio member later in the week) when they are feeling better or cleared to return to campus.
 - If a student needs to quarantine but is still feeling well enough to have a lesson, the instructor can meet over Zoom to conduct the lesson with the student.
 - Lessons may only be made up if the student has one of the excuses below:
 - Illness or Emergency
 - School-sponsored trips/activities (bring a note from your instructor before the absence and schedule a make-up test before the trip).
 - An absence on a test date discussed with the instructor and excused in advance (make-up lesson must be scheduled before the absence)
 - A Religious holiday/practice
 - The instructor will not offer a makeup lesson if the student is unprepared.
- **Communication Policies:**
 - Students are strongly urged to reach out to the instructor on their progress or any issues or questions regarding lessons/studio classes. **Do not wait** until the end of the semester to consult the instructor if you are encountering difficulties! To communicate with your instructor, use your UF email account, canvas, or set up an individual office hour appointment.
 - The instructor will utilize email and canvas as the main form of communication outside of class. **It is expected that students check their email multiple times a week** to not miss important announcements, postings, etc. Students are expected to respond to their instructor's inquiries, either verbally or through email, in a timely manner. Any emails sent to the instructor from a non-UF account **will not** receive a response.
 - Bassoon studio members are required to treat each other with respect and civility and are expected to extend that respect and civility to any bassoon studio guests, SoM Faculty/Staff, and musician peers. They are also expected to be supportive of their peers in lessons, master classes, studios, etc. In ensembles, it is expected students follow protocol and directives as established by section leaders and teaching assistants.

- The instructor reserves the right to dismiss any student who is being disruptive, disrespectful, or uncivil in a lesson, studio class, or recital. If the instructor/TA finds that a student is [being disruptive](#) to the teaching environment, the following may occur:
 - Meeting with student and instructor to discuss their behavior and a path forward for respectful and productive interactions
 - Dismissal of student from the classroom and/or office
 - Meeting with student, Assistant Director of the School of Music, and instructor
 - Follow up with Dean of Student Office/Incident report
- The instructor will share her cell phone number with the studio to facilitate ease of communication for quick questions, simple scheduling issues/solutions, and/or urgent matters in regard to studio/lessons. However, students **are asked to not call/text between the hours of 11:00pm and 6am**; however, if it is an emergency, the instructor will respond. Additionally, the instructor requests that her number not be shared with other students without permission.

School Contrabassoon Use Clause

Students who are assigned contrabassoon for ensembles must practice on the instrument at the MUB and always store the contrabassoon in its hardcase within the assigned locker (or in certain cases Steinbrenner Band Hall) when not in use. Furthermore, it is expected students handle the contrabassoon with care. Students must receive permission from the instructor to utilize a school contrabassoon for any ensembles outside of UF principal ensembles (i.e. orchestra, band). Unauthorized and/or misuse of a school contrabassoon will result in access privileges being revoked.

Musician's Health Clause

It is imperative that students practice healthy habits with their instrument. These habits should include, but not be limited to the following suggestions: stretching before playing, wearing ear plugs in ensembles during loud sections, taking regular practice breaks when doing repetitive motion, taking mental breaks (if needed during stressful times), cleaning the bocal regularly, disinfecting or throwing out reeds after illness, etc. The instructor welcomes discussing healthy habits with students at any time.

Practice Clause

It is expected that students maintain a regular practice routine to improve on their instrument. Consistent practice is more important than “binge” or last-minute, long hours of practicing. Additionally, long hours practicing without frequent breaks can result in future injury. The instructor will work with students to come up with an appropriate and healthy practice routine.

Physical Clause

Physical contact with the teacher could occur in private lessons. If students are uncomfortable with physical contact on any level, it is imperative they inform the instructor immediately so alternative instructional deliveries can be arrived upon. Before any physical contact is made, the instructor will ask permission and will do so in a functional and professional way to help the student better understand corrections given concerning playing technique, posture, and/or breathing.

Reeds Clause

The student must have a playable reed for each lesson. If a student arrives without a playable* reed, **they will lose one letter grade** off the earned lesson grade for the day. Additionally, it is expected that the student rotate their good reeds! The student must have **at least 3 playable reeds** in their stockpile of usable reeds. Legere reeds **should not** be utilized unless approved by the instructor.

[Parameters for a *non-playable* reed: major cracks/chips that affect sound/pitch; inability to hold a stable pitch throughout the entire range; inability to let the player articulate freely; inability for certain notes to sound; inability to play softs and forte dynamics; brittle wires that no longer hold tension; overwhelming mold covering the reed; etc.]

Materials Clause

It is the student's responsibility to come prepared to the lesson. If a student arrives without the week's assigned etudes, pieces, and/or other miscellaneous exercise/assignments/equipment/materials, he/she/they will automatically receive a "65 D" for the lesson. If the student foresees any barriers or encounters any issues that would hinder them from meeting this requirement, they are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor for help.

Ensemble Clause

It is expected that once students are assigned specific parts by the instructor/director(s) in ensembles that they do not alter those assignments without permission from both the instructor and ensemble director. The studio teacher will defer to the conductor if they deem a change is necessary for assignments and will not hold the student accountable for the conductor's reassignment.

Dress Code Clause

It is expected that bassoon studio members will dress professionally when performing (be it recital, jury, concert, etc.) and representing the bassoon studio in an official capacity. Members should adhere to the dress code standards as outlined by ensemble rules. If students have trouble securing professional items to wear, they can check out The Gator Career Closet (professional clothing lending service for UF students) <https://career.ufl.edu/services-resources/molm-family-gator-career-closet/> Students can also discuss other options and alternatives for assistance in professional dress with their instructor.

Agreement

By remaining in this class beyond the add/drop deadline, *you acknowledge and accept* the terms of this syllabus. **Course evaluation, components, and class policies are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students will be given due notice through email if any changes are made.**