

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**  
**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
TROMBONE STUDIO SYLLABUS  
MUA 186, 286, 386, 586, 686

**DR. JONATHAN WHITAKER**  
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STUDIO WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.ROLLSLIDE.COM](http://www.rollslide.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

- By appointment – Schedule can be viewed at [www.rollslide.com](http://www.rollslide.com)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

- Each student will participate in weekly applied lessons, studio classes, chamber music rehearsals and trombone choir.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Acquire a high level of characteristic tonal color and technical proficiency combined with a thorough knowledge of the pedagogical concepts and methods needed to instruct such proficiency to others.

Develop evaluative skills both for self-improvement and for effective teaching.

Expand the student's general musicianship as the key to intelligent interpretation of the literature.

Acquire a broad knowledge of the instrument's repertoire, heritage from world-class artists, and various performance styles.

**OUTLINE OF TOPICS:**

- Each student will be assigned an individual course of study based on his or her needs as a trombonist.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

Students are expected to come to each lesson having prepared **ALL** materials assigned. Each student is expected to practice 1 hour per credit hour of lessons per day. This also includes holidays and weekends.

Students are expected to record their daily practice frequently. This will help speed up the learning process on key fundamentals and concepts of playing.

Whitaker students are required to record each lesson and will be required to review them and type a one page summary of the topics and materials covered in each lesson. Each outline that is not submitted on time or that is incomplete will result in a lowering of the lesson grade for that week. All students in all degree programs are expected to complete these outlines!

Students are expected to buy all of the necessary materials associated with performance on trombone. See Required Materials.

Students are to view each lesson as a **performance**, demonstrating the progress made since the previous lesson. Please remember, nothing significant is ever accomplished in a single practice session. The benefits from one practice session will likely be noticed days later. Therefore, do not attempt to “cram” for your lessons. Steady progress is achieved by daily, diligent, thoughtful practice. Steady progress is the goal, not perfection.

### **STUDIO POLICIES:**

Students must come to their lessons on time and WARMED UP! Failure to do so will result dismissal from that lesson.

Please report to your lesson on time, **not before**. Please knock on the studio door at your appointed lesson time. I will often need the interval between lessons to tend to details that arise throughout the day, to finish a previous lesson or to keep my own chops limber. We will have a better lesson if you respect this policy.

All students enrolled in trombone lessons at Alabama are required to play in Trombone Choir and attend weekly Studio Class. Your participation, attendance, preparation and overall attitude toward these sessions will be reflected in your semester grade for lessons.

Please check your email and the bulletin board on the studio door **SEVERAL TIMES A DAY**. These are the easiest ways for us to communicate during the week.

A list of **required recitals and events** can be found on the studio Google Calendar. This is the official studio calendar. All trombone majors are required to attend all recitals performed by fellow studio members. Your attendance at these recitals will be reflected in your semester grade for lessons.

Each large ensemble section is required to hold a one hour sectional each week outside of rehearsal. The principal player of each section will coordinate these sectionals.

All required materials must be acquired by September 15 and brought to your next lesson after that date.

Each student is expected to provide an accompanist for appropriate solo performances, juries, etc. Please consult me for a list of approved pianists. Please have your pianist booked by the following dates: October 15 (Fall semester) and March 1 (Spring semester).

Each student is required to have a minimum of 2 piano coachings for a jury or sophomore qualifying and a minimum of 3 for a recital. These coachings should not all take place at the last minute. Plan ahead! Grades will be lowered for not following through with this!

#### **EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Each student will be graded weekly based on his or her preparation of the assigned material each week.
- Each student is expected to keep a list of weekly assignments outlining the materials and concepts to be covered during the week.
- Whitaker students are required to record each lesson and will be required to review them and type a one page summary of the topics and materials covered in each lesson. Each outline that is not submitted on time or that is incomplete will result in a lowering of the lesson grade for that week. All students in all degree programs are expected to complete these outlines!

#### **GRADING POLICY:**

Weekly lessons/lesson transcripts	50%
Convocation/Jury/Recital	20%
Trombone Choir/Chamber Music	15%
Studio Class/Required Recitals	15%

#### **JURY AND SOPHOMORE QUALIFYING:**

- Performance Major
  - 2 solos with accompaniment (or appropriate unaccompanied solo)
  - excerpts
  - scales
- Music Education
  - 2 solos with accompaniment (or appropriate unaccompanied solo)
  - scales
- Music Therapy
  - 1 solo with accompaniment
  - scales

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance is **REQUIRED** each week. Lessons will not be rescheduled if the student does not contact the professor prior to the absence and this will result a grade of F for that lesson. Lessons will not be rescheduled due to “not having time to prepare” or “I have been so busy and have so much to

do that I haven't practiced." It is the student's responsibility to reschedule lessons that are excused. If you are more than 10 minutes late to your lesson it will be cancelled...I will be involved in another project by then. Please have a datebook or smart phone and use it dutifully (see Required Materials and Equipment).

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Arban - Complete Method (Alessi/Bowman edition) (36467)
- Borgogni - The Complete Vocalises (Mulcahy edition) (72450)
- Schlossberg - Daily Drills and Techniques (06210)
- Marsteller - Basic Routines (021394)
- Blazhevich - Clef Studies (58966) - TENORS ONLY
- Blazhevich - 70 Studies vol. 1 (001209) - BASSES ONLY

**REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:**

Digital Recording Device – Zoom H2, Edirol R-09 or Tascam DR-1  
Datebook or smart phone  
Instrument in good repair  
Mouthpiece (see instructor for recommendations)  
All necessary mutes (trombone)  
Etude books and solo material (an individual list will be made for each student). Each student will be required to own the ORIGINAL of each work performed in public.  
DropBox account  
Micro-cassette recorder with counter and half speed feature or digital equivalent  
Tuner or smart phone app  
Metronome or smart phone app  
Brass Buzzer or Buzzarella  
Notebook for taking notes and for weekly assignments  
Breathing Bag  
Incentive Spirometer

**OTHER COURSE MATERIALS:**

Mouthpiece visualizer (rim)  
Tune-Up System  
Smart Music software

**THE UA TROMBONE STUDIO "A" STUDENT PROFILE**

Trains professionally  
Takes every aspect of career at Alabama seriously  
Prepares thoroughly for lessons  
Self motivated and enthusiastic about improving performance and/or teaching skills

Able to listen actively  
Quick in implementation  
Non-confrontational  
Handles all of the organizational elements of the Studio with skill  
Seeks opportunities to audition, record, perform and contribute to all aspects of the School of Music  
Carries a duet book in music bag for musical interaction with others  
Is curious about technology and how it can be of great benefit  
Browses numerous resources looking for new literature and recordings  
Listens to fine recordings and reads about instrument/music daily  
Not necessarily the most talented

#### **STUDIO CLASS:**

Studio class will meet every week (Monday at 6:00 – 7:30 pm). Attendance is required at each meeting of studio class. A list of dates and topics will be posted on the website.

#### **TROMBONE CHOIR:**

Trombone Choir will meet every Tuesday and Thursday (6:00-7:30 pm). See the Google Calendar for performance dates for each semester.

#### **STUDIO RESOURCES:**

Studio Website – [www.rollslide.com](http://www.rollslide.com)  
Dr. Whitaker has an extensive library of sheet music, books and recordings that can be checked out on an individual basis.  
If you check out these materials you will be expected to return them in the same condition you received them. It is expected that the student will replace any damaged or lost materials.  
A hold will be placed on the student's account at the conclusion of each semester until items are returned.  
Again, each student will be required to own the ORIGINAL of each work performed in public.

#### **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Many of you will ask me for letters of recommendation. I take these letters very seriously and write letters that are specific to each student. I do not follow a form letter and paste in the student's name. Since each letter is drafted from scratch, I require at least 2 weeks notice to complete the letter. I am also very honest in my letters. I write letters based upon the type of letter I would like to receive about a student. When/if you seek a letter from me, please understand that I will give an honest assessment of your work, **as seen through my eyes**. You may wish to confer with me to be certain that what I will write is consistent with what you hope I will write.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

- Important aspects of performance related injury(s) related to the discipline will be discussed. These include physical concerns related to the lip, teeth, facial muscles, arms, shoulders, back and lungs. In addition, important concerns and considerations regarding hearing health will be addressed. The student will learn how to adjust relative to diverse acoustical environments and direct exposure to sustained sound in a variety of rehearsal settings. The use of hearing protection as is appropriate/needed will be addressed. The use of headphones/ear inserts when listening to music will be addressed as well.

## **IMPROVISATION:**

- Development of appropriate skills including, but not limited to tone, range, facility, dynamics, and proper performance practice (including improvised cadenza material and ornamentation as appropriate).

Basic aspects of improvisation will be learned including the creation of melodies and rhythmic motives within various tonal centers.

## **TECHNOLOGY:**

- Use of digital recording and playback equipment for the purpose of practice evaluation, audition/competition preparation, and tempo/intonation drills. Each student must own or have full access to the necessary equipment. (Minimum: digital recording device and microphone.)

## **DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

- If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

## **POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

- All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

- The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

### **SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL:**

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students (sign up at myBama)
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA 7. WVUA 7 Storm Watch provides a free service you can subscribe to that allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail, pager or cell phone. Check <http://www.wvua7.com/stormwatch.html> for details.