

OBOE STUDIO SYLLABUS  
Fall 2008 and onward

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Music 3140 & 7040: Primary Oboe (English Horn & Oboe d'Amore)  
Music 4120: Oboe/English Horn Reed Class

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Studio Class: Tuesdays, 1:40 - 2:30 pm, Rm 217  
Reed Classes: TBA, Rm 217  
Office Hours: by appointment

I. Materials:

Required Music:

Barret - Oboe Method  
Ferling - 48 Famous Studies  
Andraud - Vade Mecum of the Oboist  
Rothwell - Difficult Passages (4 Volumes: Bach, Classical 1 & 2, Modern)  
Other Literature as Assigned (see oboe repertoire list in Study Guide)

Required Equipment & Supplies:

Professional Model Oboe and Case  
12 Reed Case for Oboe Reeds  
3 Reed Case for English Horn Reeds  
Electronic Metronome  
Chromatic Tuner with Speaker and Clip-on Microphone  
Reed Making Equipment (as listed below)  
Maintenance and Repair Equipment (as listed below)  
CD's as Assigned  
Oboe Notebook (3 ring loose-leaf binder)

Note: Oboe students must plan to obtain all required materials before or as soon as possible during their first semester of study. Any delay in these acquisitions may hinder progress, performance and grade in these courses.

## Materials for Oboe Majors

### Required Reed Equipment:

Gouged Cane - Minimum of twenty (20) pieces of oboe cane and five (5) pieces of EH cane on hand at all times. If the student does not own a shaper tip and handle, then this cane must be gouged shaped and folded.

Millimeter Ruler - Must be metal with finely etched lines.

Staples - Minimum of twenty (20) oboe and five (5) EH staples on hand at all times. The oboe staples must be 47 mm and the EH staples must be 27 mm, both of nickel silver alloy.

Oboe Mandrel - Required. English horn mandrel recommended, but not required as long as student has a corkless oboe staple to use with the oboe mandrel as a substitute EH mandrel.

Plaques - Minimum of two (2) on hand at all times. Thin and narrow blue steel.

Knives - Minimum of two (2) Landwell or comparable hollow ground knives.

Cutting Block - Grenadilla wood with smooth, slightly convex surface.

Sharpening Stones - Norton FB6 or FB35 fine india stone (no substitutes). EZLap diamond plate 6x3 or 8x3.

Reed Thread - Nylon or Silk - FF gauge (if you're strong), EE or F otherwise

Beeswax

Razor Blades - Industrial pack of 100 is most economical

Sandpaper - Four (4) pieces of 600 grit Silicon Carbide

### Optional Reed Equipment:

Shaper Tip - Required by Junior year. Current recommendations: Adam/Joshua +2, Pfeiffer/Mack/RDG, RDG-1. Consult before buying!

Gouging Machine - Highly recommended, especially before the end of undergraduate or graduate degree program. Current recommendations: Driscoll, Ross, Graf, Jeanné. Consult before buying!

Micrometer - For gauging cane thickness - available from RDG, Jeanné, Coelho, et al.

Propane Torch - Useful for hardening gouger blades and melting wax and shellac.

Mill Bastard File - Useful for modifying gouger parallels and guides.

Sandpaper - 100 & 300 grit

## Required Instrument Maintenance Equipment:

Swab - Silk or cotton, pull-through or non-pull-through. Non-pull-through is safer.

Paint Brush - For weekly dusting of oboe.

Cigarette Papers - Ungummed, for adjustments and removal of water.

Screw Drivers - tips should range between 1 and 2 mm.

## Optional Instrument Maintenance Equipment:

Octave Vent Remover - Highly recommended for solving octave vent problems.

Feathers - White or gray turkey (none of the dyed variety). Recommended for water redistribution in bore and quick action.

Crochet Hook - 6" for mounting and unmounting springs - faster than screw driver.

## II. Lessons

Music 3140 & 7040, Primary Oboe (English Horn & Oboe d'Amore), consist of weekly individual lessons, studio classes and additional master classes as scheduled. Lessons will consist of technical requirements (scales, arpeggios and other exercises), etudes by Barret and Ferling, solo repertoire, chamber repertoire and large ensemble repertoire as outlined in the Oboe Studio Study Guide.

In order to maximize lesson time, students must warm up (instrument, reed, embouchure, fingers, mind and body) at least one half hour prior to the lesson and knock on the studio at the lesson time. Having organized lesson goals the evening before, students are encouraged to express what they hope to cover in the lesson and show an eagerness to learn when they walk through the door.

Students should bring all appropriate music, instruments and materials to lessons and classes, including the Oboe Notebook, which will be used to consolidate all oboe/EH-related information and serve as a plan and record of study.

Please note:

LSU is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a "Research University I" institution. To achieve this designation, a university must "give high priority to research." In the field of Music Performance, "research" means performing concerts. From time to time, weekly lessons may have to be rescheduled to accommodate the professor's performance schedule. On occasion, an extra master class may replace an individual lesson, when performance commitments allow no alternative. Graduate students may also be asked to assist in undergraduate teaching.

Oboe students are expected to check LSU e-mail and the oboe studio board daily for announcements, changes in schedule or materials.

## Lessons (continued)

Studio Class meets on Tuesdays at 1:40 pm and participation is required of all oboe students. This is a master class with a syllabus that covers topics such as oboe fundamentals, practice techniques, memorization, oboe/EH adjustment and maintenance, solo & ensemble performances and orchestral repertoire. All students will be required to play in class as assigned and be ready to play as time permits. Students may also be required to comment on and offer suggestions about student performances in the class.

Oboe/English Horn Reed Classes are TBA. The classes will be divided into two levels and combined as appropriate. Participation in at least one hour of class per week is required of all oboe students taking this course. Students are required to bring their reed equipment and a minimum of three (3) new reeds from the week's work to each class showing progress from the previous week's assignment. Students are expected to make a minimum of one to two reeds per day in order to advance their reed making skills.

Orchestral Literature Master Classes will meet as scheduled. These classes will supplement the Studio Class and are strongly recommended for all oboe students. Junior, Senior and Graduate oboe majors are required to attend. \_\_\_\_\_ Classes may require listening to recordings, preparation of orchestral parts, trial auditions, in-class coaching and class discussion.

### III. Listening

Listening assignments will be part of the curriculum for the studio and orchestral literature classes, as well as other course work for the School of Music. Oboe students will receive a list of repertoire especially important for the oboe and English horn that they will be expected to listen to, and be familiar with over the course of their degree program.

### IV. Attendance

Since lessons and master classes are participatory in nature, an unexcused absence from a lesson, studio class, reed class, orchestral literature class or scheduled master class will result in a zero grade for that particular lesson or class. An unexcused absence is one in which the professor did not receive a phone or e-mail message asking to be excused prior to the event.

More than fifteen (15) minutes late will be considered an absence. Repeated lateness under fifteen minutes will accumulate to an unexcused absence when the total exceeds fifteen (15) minutes. Lessons or classes missed due to excused absence (illness or emergency with prior message or call) will be made up at a time convenient for both professor and student. More than three (3) excused absences may require the student to take an incomplete for the course in a manner consistent with LSU academic policies.

All oboe students are required to attend the professor's solo and chamber music recitals, as well as all degree recitals by colleagues in the oboe studio. Attendance at orchestra concerts and other faculty and guest artist recitals is strongly encouraged.

## V. Grading

Students majoring in oboe performance are expected to hold oboe performance as the chief priority in their university curriculum. Since the profession is highly competitive, it is incumbent on the student to make the very most of their tenure at LSU. The minimum expectation for oboe majors is to demonstrate satisfactory technical control of the oboe and English horn, and good understanding of musical style with these instruments as a medium of expression. For most people, this requires at least three to four hours per day in practice interspersed with at least an hour or so per day in reed-making, bearing in mind that the actual time spent is not as important as the amount of focused mental energy employed. Students should schedule classes and outside activities to allow enough time to meet their musical goals.

Each lesson, class performance and assignment will be graded on the following scale:

A: Well-prepared assignment and/or excellent performance  
B: Adequately prepared assignment and/or competent performance  
C: Inadequately prepared assignment and/or significantly flawed performance  
NC (no credit): No preparation or performance

For purposes of calculation:

A = 100  
A- = 95  
B+ = 90  
B = 87  
B- = 83  
C+ = 80  
C = 77  
C- = 73

The average of all lesson and studio grades will constitute 25% of the final lesson grade for the semester. 25% will be determined by successful completion of the technical requirements for the semester. The remaining 50% of the grade will be determined by the end of semester Jury Exam Grade.

Final Grade: A >95 A- >90 B+ >87 B >83 B- >80 C+ >77 C >73 C- >70 F <70

Reed class will be assigned a separate grade using the above criterion and grading scale.

## VI. Jury Exams

Jury Exams are held at the end of each semester during exam week. All Primary Oboe students are expected to perform a Jury Exam. This performance is graded by a panel consisting of Applied Wind Faculty of the School of Music. A time and place for Jury Exams will be announced at least two weeks prior. The student is responsible for signing up for a time slot for the Jury Exam at a time when their accompanist is available. A repertoire form will be completed by the student and brought to the jury.

## Jury Exams (continued)

The literature prepared for the Jury Exam will consist of the following materials from the Oboe Studio Study Guide:

- A. Solo Literature and/or Orchestral Excerpts
- B. Etudes
- C. Technical Requirements

Decisions concerning a student's jury requirements are usually made by the seventh (7th) week of the semester. If required, an accompanist must be engaged for the Jury Exam by the student at this time. Unless other arrangements are made, the accompanist must be present at no less than two lessons with a minimum of one rehearsal prior to the first lesson, as arranged by the student with the accompanist. The student is responsible for the accompanist's fee, comportment and preparation. Students are strongly advised to use accompanists recommended by the LSU staff. Professional demeanor and attire are appropriate for Jury Exam performances.

Each member of the Jury gives the student a grade for the jury performance. These grades are averaged to find the Jury Exam Grade (50% of the Final lesson Grade). At the discretion of the student's professor, this Jury Exam Grade may be raised or lowered by one letter grade depending on the professor's assessment of the student's work over the course of the semester.

Achieving Junior Standing in the School of Music:

The Jury Exam at the end of the Sophomore year is a barrier exam for music majors, including music education majors. At the conclusion of the Jury Exam of each prospective Junior music major, the Jury will decide if the student has achieved Junior standing. They will announce this decision soon after the completion of the student's Jury Exam. The previous awarding of passing grades is not to be construed as a guarantee of admission to Junior standing in the School of Music, nor is admission to Junior standing in any other division of the University to be construed as a guarantee of admission to Junior standing in the School of Music. Additionally, oboe majors must show reed-making independence by the end of their Sophomore year to qualify for Junior standing. With respect to Junior standing, the decision of the Jury is final.

## VII. Course Descriptions

Refer to the Oboe Studio Study Guide as an outline of expectations for the various course levels.

Please read the School of Music Undergraduate or Graduate Student Handbook.

Read and keep this syllabus for the duration of your oboe study at LSU.