

Herb Alpert School of Music

2018 - 2019

Tuba and Euphonium Studio Syllabus

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Studio Website: <http://uclatubas.weebly.com>

**Course Objectives:**

The mission of the UCLA Tuba and Euphonium studio is to provide world-class teaching, resources, and experience so that you, the students of this studio, are given the opportunity to become the best players in your field.

Beyond that, the UCLA Tuba and Euphonium studio is a place where we can learn from each other, serve as role models to the UCLA School of Music and at-large community, and eventually become our own best teachers. The traits we hone together – discipline, curiosity, wisdom, optimism, and amiability – serve as the cornerstones toward achieving these goals.

Simply stated, my objective is to help you become fantastic musicians who go on to have wonderful careers. Whether you are majoring in performance, education, or later decide to pursue a career in a field that’s related or not, I promise that I will put everything into making you the best that you can be. In order to achieve this goal, you can expect that you will need to work hard, work intelligently, learn as much as possible, and act professionally in school.

**Office Hours and Contact:**

I keep a Google calendar of my UCLA schedule that you can find at: <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=485kelgl7c1m7obo62pm0t8n5c%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Los_Angeles>**.** I know that’s a pain to put into a URL field, so I will keep a link to this calendar on the studio website.

As you know, I divide my time between Baltimore and Los Angeles. Generally, I teach on Mondays though I also teach on other days during the week depending on my availability. If you need to talk to me in-person outside of lessons, you can contact me anytime to set up a meeting while I’m in L.A. If I am not otherwise engaged, I am more than happy to come to campus or meet for coffee. (And I do love coffee.)

For all other ways to reach me, the best way to get in touch with me is via e-mail or Facebook Messenger. If it’s urgent, you can call my cell number. Please note this number is **not** for general distribution. If I e-mail, call or message you, I expect a response the same day; you can expect that I will return your message within 24 hours. If you e-mail or message me, please use complete sentences with proper grammar and punctuation. (I am “old school” and don’t understand a lot of that text message jargon.)

I have set up the UCLA Tuba and Euphonium website with a wealth of information, resources, examples of performances, musicians worth admiring, music to practice and perform, etc. If you have a question for me, **PLEASE** make sure that it is not answerable on the website, here in the syllabus, or in a lesson I have already given to you.

I use several mediums of communication to interact with you. If you are not comfortable with a social media medium, please let me know privately; I am more than happy to use another form of communication.

**Grades:**

I grade based on the following:

50% Lessons (including attendance, preparation, progress)

15% Studio Class (attendance, preparation, progress, performance)

15% Listening Assignment

10% Attitude/Leadership/Initiative: Are you constantly striving to be the most organized and well-prepared person at the School of Music? Are you studying scores, listening to other recordings, reading the history or otherwise going the extra mile?

10% Jury / Recital Preparation and Performance

**Lesson Policies (50% of Your Grade):**

Lesson Timing: It works to everyone’s benefit if we run on-time with lessons. Therefore, please show up **on-time.** This means that you are warmed-up, ready to play and in the building at least five minutes prior to the lesson start time. If I am running late, I will text you as far in advance as possible. But, until then, please assume the lesson starts on time.

Lesson Preparation: Please plan to practice everything that I assign to you in the time frame that you’ve been given. If you come to a lesson and are clearly unprepared, the lesson will end immediately and your grade will be lowered.

Materials: All necessary materials should be brought to each lesson, including solos, etudes, methods, orchestral / band excerpts (if applicable), and required equipment (see required equipment and materials below).

**Documentation:** I require that you bring a dedicated notebook with pen or pencil to each lesson to document the instruction given, as well as any additional notes. You may use a recording device instead; if you do so, bring it to every lesson and press record at the beginning of each lesson.

Required Repertoire: As part of the core curriculum for your instrument, you are **required** to own all of the music listed on the “Required Repertoire” document for your grade level.

Listening: If I ask you to listen to a recording to aid your understanding of a piece on which you’re currently working, please do so **promptly**. I’d prefer that you do it same day, but I require that you do so at least a day before our next lesson.

Lesson by recording or online: On rare occasion where I am unable to teach your lesson in person, I may request that you make a recording of your lesson materials. I will then ask that you send the recording to me electronically. I will evaluate the recording and send you documented commentary electronically. I also occasionally make use of a digital medium to do a lesson with you online, typically Skype or Facebook Messenger.

**Lectures (Included Lesson Grade):**

There are several topics that are essential to your learning experience that aren’t necessarily taught in lessons. These include “How to Practice,” “Good Citizenship,” “How to Take an Audition,” “Curiosity,” etc. In order to instill you with these important values, several lessons each semester are replaced with “lecture lessons.” The requirements for these are treated essentially the same as lessons: make sure you arrive on time, etc.

**Attendance Policy (Included in Lesson Grade):**

You are requiredto attend all UCLA Tuba and Euphonium studio activities and related activities. This includes lessons, studio class, brass faculty performances, solo recital performances by fellow studio members and any other events required by the brass department. You are not allowed to miss a solo recital given by another student in the studio without receiving an excused absence from me first. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of your grade.

I do allow for the occasional absence based on illness or an emergency. However, failure to notify me of a delay or absence prior to a studio event (such as a lesson) will result in the lowering of your grade.

If you miss a lesson due to the above reasons, I will try to make it up based on a mutually agreeable time and date. Please be aware that I will not be able to make this happen 100% of the time. However, I will do my best, as I want to give you every chance I can for you to learn, grow, and succeed.

**Studio Class (15% of Your Grade):**

Attendance at Studio Class is required. I will often have guest clinicians for studio class. Other classes will be in a general master class setting.

**Tuba – Euphonium Ensemble (Part of Studio Class Grade):**

This ensemble will generally meet a mutually agreeable time for all. Participation in this ensemble’s rehearsals and performances is mandatory for all tuba and euphonium music majors.

**Listening Assignments (15% of Your Grade):**

The listening assignment portion of your grade is set up to get you familiarized with repertoire that every prospective musician needs to know to have a chance at musical success. The list of repertoire, as well as its suggested order, is available on the studio website, on the “Resources” page. You may listen to anything on the list in any order you like; the suggested order is merely what I think would be the order most beneficial to the typical student.

To receive a grade for your listening assignment, you will need to:

1. Listen to at least ten pieces on the list; see the listening assignment instruction for further details.
2. For each piece, write one or two paragraphs detailing your impressions of that piece (minimum ten single-spaced lines, Times New Roman or equivalent font size, size 12 font).
3. Hand in a paper to me (in person or via email) with your impressions of all ten pieces before the end of week 10 of each quarter.

**Juries (10% of Your Grade):**

Juries will take place at the end of each quarter and are required of all tuba and euphonium music majors. The jury is 10% of your grade for each quarter. Juries are intended to be comprehensive progress exams based on the work you’ve done over the past nine or ten weeks. What comprises each jury will change each quarter (as you progress as a student). However, juries will generally consist of:

1. Scales from the William Bell Daily Routine
2. Etudes
3. Solos (plan to use a pianist, if playing an accompanied work)
4. Band and/or orchestral excerpts

Jury faculty will generally consist of me and may include one other faculty member, either of the brass department or one of the ensemble directors. Juries will always take place during week 9, week 10, or during exam week.

**Exemptions from juries**

You are exempt from juries if:

1. You performed a half or full recital during the quarter, including at least 25 minutes of solo music, or:
2. You auditioned for a major, full-time professional ensemble during the quarter (examples: any member of the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians, any full-time Regional Orchestra Players Association ensemble, a full-time military band, etc.), or:
3. You took part in another activity that qualifies you for exemption, as specified by me during the quarter (examples: open Southern California mock audition, audition for AYS, etc)

**Recitals (Substitution for Juries Grade):**

Undergraduate juniors are required to perform a half a solo recital (usually shared with another music major from the School of Music).

Undergraduate seniors are required to perform a full solo recital (no more than half chamber music).

I require that first year Master of Music students perform a minimum of half a solo recital, but I prefer a full recital. You may also opt to perform a mock audition; see me for details.

Second year Master of Music students are required to perform a full recital.

DMA students have their own recital requirements; please refer to your DMA handbook.

**Required Equipment and Materials**:

Tuba Performance Majors: A CC Contrabass Tuba in good repair with materials for cleaning and maintenance. You are **required** to own an F Tuba by the beginning of your sophomore year.

Tuba Education Majors: A CC Contrabass Tuba in good repair with materials for cleaning and maintenance. I **strongly suggest** that you be in possession of an F tuba by the beginning of your senior year.

Euphonium Majors: A four valve, Bb Bass Clef Euphonium in good repair with materials for cleaning and maintenance.

All Majors: A mouthpiece appropriate for your instrument

All etude books, solos, excerpts and other lesson material as outlined in the “Required Repertoire” document and any additional material that I require you to own. These materials must be in physical, sheet music format. **Tablets are not allowed as a substitution for sheet music in lessons.**

A dedicated notebook for lesson notes with writing instrument.

Mobile phone with text message plan

Tuner

Metronome

Audio recording device (preferably of professional quality, such as devices manufactured by Zoom or Roland)

**Final Thoughts:**

By being a part of the UCLA Tuba and Euphonium Studio, you have already proven that you are a high caliber student, both musically and academically. **I am extremely proud to include you all in this studio.** Work hard, take the initiative, and be a leader throughout the school year and you will excel as a musician, both inside and outside UCLA.