

String Bass Technique I – Course Syllabus

Course: String Bass Technique I
Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description:

A class in which a small group of string bass players at a similar level of advancement are given technical instruction, including how to play and how to practice. They acquire facility with major and minor scales, key signatures and arpeggios (both theoretical principles and performance). They are also introduced to solo repertory and music for small ensembles of like instruments. A remediation component is part of this course, allowing for one-on-one instruction where it is needed to supplement the classwork.

Content Standards:

Tuning the bass.

Holding the instrument properly with the correct posture and the proper shaping of the left hand and bow hand.

Performing the following scales, including arpeggios, detached notes or two notes slurred:

1. All major scales one octave
2. Two octaves E, F, F#, G.
3. Minor scales, 3 forms A, Bb, B, C, D, E, F, G.

Etudes from list of materials below.

Sight reading at the level of material appropriate to the student.

Course Outline:

Every class session: scales and arpeggios (major and minor, sequenced according to level of technical difficulty); etude (sequence in etude book or chosen according to students' needs).

Twice a week or more as needed solo repertory (at level of individual student).

Once a week or more as needed: Orchestra music drill.

Materials:

1. to be purchased and kept at home:
Rosin
Music stand
2. to be purchased as assigned from among the following, to be used at home and in class.

Etudes:

Muller-Rusch, *String Method, Book 1*
Rubank, *Elementary Method*
Simandl, *New Method for Double Bass, Book 1*
Simandl, *30 Etudes*
Sturm, *110 Studies, Op. 20, Vol. 1*
Applebaum, *Orchestra Bowing Etudes*
Other materials to be selected

Solo Repertory:

J.S. Bach, *Sarabande*
J.S. Bach, *Minuet in C*
J.S. Bach, *Chorale*
Two French Folk Songs (No. 1), (Applebaum)
Saint-Saëns, *The Elephant from Carnival of the Animals*
J.S. Bach, *March in G*
Other Materials to be selected

Duets:

Beautiful Music for Two String Instruments, Vol. 1, Applebaum
Chamber Music for Two String Instruments, Vols. 1 & 2, Applebaum
Duets for Strings, Books 1 & 2, Applebaum
New Tunes for Strings, Book 1, Fletcher
Other materials to be selected

Course Requirements:

1. Students must be on time for every class. Any absence must be supported by a note from home. Three unexcused absences will likely result in failure.
2. Students must practice at home.
3. Students must bring music and other materials (pencil with eraser) to class each class period.
4. Students must complete all assignments in good time. A student who has missed a class for any reason, including legitimate school performances, must make up all class and home practice assignments that were missed.
5. Students may not eat, drink, or chew gum in class. Students may not bring radios, tape recorders, CD players or headphones to class; the use of these items is strictly prohibited. Sleeping or misbehaving in class will not be tolerated.
6. Students must cooperate with the instructor and other students, and show respect for the learning process.

Grading:

Evidence of home practice	35%
Class participation	15%
Playing quizzes	30%
Jury (final semester examination) or advisory exam	20%

Attendance: the letter grade will be lowered for each unexcused absence.

Performance attire

Anyone not meeting the dress code requirement will not perform.

Dress requirements for traveling Performance Ensembles.

- At the discretion of the Director (refer to class syllabus)

Dress requirements for juries and recitals:

- Male- black suit, white collared shirt, long matching tie, black socks, black shine-able dress shoes
- Female- black knee-length dress, skirt with white collared blouse, or females who play instruments such as cello, guitar, bass clarinet must wear long skirts or full-flowing black dress culottes with white collared blouse, flesh tone stockings and black dress shoes. No bare shoulders (strapless or halter dresses). Any dresses with bare shoulders (with straps) must be covered with a cardigan or shawl. All jewelry worn for performance must be modest and conservative. No pants allowed. For additional information, please seek advice from designated department female advisor.

Senior Recitals

The culmination of the Instrumental Music major's training at Ellington is the presentation of a senior recital. Senior recitals are expected of all graduating seniors, although the senior jury (hearing) meets the minimum requirement for graduation. Seniors who fail their senior jury. Recital will NOT receive a Duke Ellington School of the Arte graduation diploma and will NOT participate in graduation

The senior recital is limited to 20 minutes of music, and should demonstrate the music literature studied in Technique class, which includes at least one grade V or better selection. The literature for the senior recital is chosen and/ or approved by the individual technique teacher. Seniors will demonstrate their preparation for the recital at a senior hearing (jury).