

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 class work. The ultimate goal of the Bass Technique course is for all students to perform at a high level on their senior recital and college entrance auditions.

Content Standards:

DCPS music content standards are the basis for the core skills and concepts addressed in this course:

- Undertake daily instrument technique exercises.
- Learn to play through music notation and develop sight reading proficiency
- Develop proficiency in performing assorted etudes and compositions.
- Learn to play a varied repertoire of music.
- Understand the history and culture of the instrument.

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
Metronome
Recording device (cell phone, tape recorder, mini disc, etc.)
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 I*
Simandl, *30 Etudes*
Sturm, *110 Studies, Op. 20, Vol. I*
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 own or rent a bass and bow.
2. Students must be on time for every class. Any absence must be supported by a note from home.
3. Students must practice at home with a metronome.
4. Students must bring all required materials to class each class day: music (i.e., etude book, solo repertoire, string ensemble and orchestra music, etc.), pencil, eraser, rosin, and notebook for lesson notes.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. Students must cooperate with the instructor and other students, and show respect for the learning process.

Grading:

Evidence of home practice and application	50%
Class participation	10%
Assessments	40%

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 tailored suit, white collared shirt, long matching black tie, black socks, black shine-able dress shoes
- Female: black tea-length, mid-calf or longer dress or skirt with black collared blouse; females who play instruments such as cello, guitar, and bass clarinet must wear long skirts or full-flowing black dress culottes with black collared blouse, black stockings and black dress shoes. No bare shoulders (strapless or halter dresses). No cleavage or midriff. 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 Arts 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).

I have received and read the Bass I Course Syllabus. I agree to meet all course requirements and objectives as listed in the syllabus.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

Please return this signed form to the teacher.