

Ball State University
School of Music
Course Syllabus
MUSP 420 Section 3 – Woodwind Pedagogy & Literature
Spring 2026

General Information

Instructor Dr. Elisha Willinger, Assistant Teaching Professor of Clarinet
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Course Description and Objectives

The objective of this course is to survey pedagogical techniques and a study of clarinet literature including solo, chamber, & orchestral repertoire including recital preparation. Techniques for teaching beginner, intermediate, and advanced students will be discussed, as well as gaining an understanding of proper method books for each level/appropriate pedagogical resources to use. A list of teaching resources and books will also be distributed. This will be an additional one-on-one lesson to be scheduled with the instructor.

Studio Class Presentation

You will prepare a PowerPoint presentation in studio class (minimum 30 minutes in length) regarding an assigned fundamental. The instructor will assign a topic and in class you will discuss proper technique of the fundamental, possible pedagogical methods for teaching this fundamental, common issues, how to diagnose, and solutions. The date of the presentation will be discussed with the student (February). You will perform research on this topic and the instructor may provide helpful texts and resources for completion of this assignment. Please cite the resources used for your presentation. Please send a draft of your presentation via email by **January 24th**.

Assignments

You may be assigned to teach a student for studio class and/or outside of class. This may include one-on-one recorded video observations. Upon submission of the video or observation, constructive feedback will be provided after. Additional assignments and reading may be given.

Listening Quiz

At the beginning of the semester, a list of standard clarinet solo & orchestral repertoire will be handed out. Throughout the semester on your own, you'll be expected to gradually listen to this list to have a great familiarity with standard literature. During the final lesson of the semester, a listening quiz will be given and you will need to quickly identify the specific composer/piece being performed from this list. Any short segment of the piece/movement at any spot of the piece may be played (in the solo/chamber/orchestral rep, this includes sections that are not specifically clarinet solo).

Grading and Policies

Final grades will be based upon the following:

- Presentation for studio class on a fundamental technique 30%
- Teaching observations/assignments 30%
- Improvement, growth, attitude, and professional work ethic 10%
- Attendance, preparation, & participation in weekly lessons, 15%
- End of semester listening quiz, 15%

Grading criteria:

- A (Excellent): Mastery of the subject matter is clearly evident; outstanding effort, significant achievement and personal improvement are clearly evident; remarkable skill and creativity may also be evident.
- B (Above Average): Competence in the subject matter is clearly evident; all aspects of the assignment(s) have been fulfilled; good effort, achievement or improvement is evident.
- C (Average): At least minimal competence in the subject matter is evident; aspects of the assignment(s) are fulfilled but with minimal competence; average expenditure of effort and/or creativity is evident; minimal improvement may be evident.
- D (Needs Improvement): Minimal competence in the subject matter is difficult to ascertain; some aspect(s) of the assignment may not have been fulfilled; a preponderance of errors may interfere with clear communication; insufficient effort and lack of improvement are evident.
- F (Unacceptable): Competence in the subject matter is clearly not evident; assignment(s) may be incomplete or entirely missing; little or no effort appears to have been expended; no improvement is evident.

Absence Policy

If you need to discuss anything with me or have any questions, knock on the door in between lessons or please email me if you need to set up an appointment to discuss anything privately. Please contact me if you need to be absent for a coaching due to an extenuating circumstance, emergency, or conflict. You may call or text me in the event of an emergency. Any unexcused absence will result in a one letter grade deduction (ie. A becomes A-) from the final grade. All students are expected to attend every coaching. Please note if I need to cancel a coaching, a make-up will be offered. If the the ensemble surpasses a total of four or more absences during the semester, it is up to the instructor to determine if the students are still eligible to pass depending on the circumstances.

Accommodations

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's [Disability Services](#) office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

The professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time during the term. Notice of such amendment will be given in a timely manner.

Last edited: 1/6/2026