

Ball State University
School of Music
Course Syllabus
MUSP 430 Section 3 – Woodwind Chamber Music
Spring 2026

General Information

Instructor Dr. Elisha Willinger, Assistant Teaching Professor of Clarinet
MIB Room 134 (203)645-7698 elisha.willinger@bsu.edu

Course Description

The objective of this course is to study chamber music of the woodwind repertoire and to cultivate expressive, technical, and performance skills in an intimate ensemble setting without a conductor. Chamber music is a deeply cooperative activity, promotes a dialogue and exchange of musical ideas, and as artists, each musician in the chamber ensemble shares great responsibility in shaping the final performance.

Course Objectives and Goals

- Building a strong foundation of fundamentals: Sound, articulation, embouchure, air support, technique, rhythm, pitch/intonation
- Musicianship, working towards an expressive interpretation of the music and developing communication skills between each chamber musician in the ensemble
- Teamwork, learning to communicate with your chamber partners in a diplomatic and democratic way in rehearsal that culminates in a wonderful chamber performance
- Repertoire, which will be discussed and assigned in advance. Developing a knowledge of some of the chamber repertoire for the instrumentation of your ensemble

Grading and Policies

Final grades will be based upon the following:

- Preparation of weekly chamber music repertoire 30%
- End of the Semester Chamber Recital performance 30%
- Improvement, growth, attitude, and professional work ethic 20%
- Attendance & participation in weekly coachings, 20%

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.

Practice

Students are required to rehearse each week and will be involved with weekly coachings with the instructor. It is suggested you rehearse at least twice each week and practice the chamber music assigned individually. If your grade is lower than an A at any time, you will be notified, in the hopes that the semester grade/work involved may be improved for end of the semester.

Concert

Please note this semester's woodwind chamber recital is **Monday April 13th at 5:30pm in Sursa Hall**. Your performance of the assigned repertoire and participation is required.

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: 12/30/2025

