



COURSE NUMBER: MUSP 431, Section 11A (0.5-credit)
TEACHER OF RECORD: Dr. Stephen Campbell – sccampbell@bsu.edu
GRADUATE ASSISTANT: Reed Ulery – reed.ulery@bsu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Ball State Brass Ensemble (BSBE) is a student chamber ensemble comprised of trumpets, horns, trombones, euphoniums, tubas, and optional additional instruments. The BSBE performs a variety of repertoire from the original brass ensemble canon to transcriptions and arrangements of music from other media. The BSBE seeks to provide unique educational, pedagogical, and performing experiences for student musicians through on-campus and community performance engagements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students in the BSBE will accomplish the following:

- Perform artistically significant and diverse repertoire for the brass ensemble medium, including works for large forces and chamber music representing a diversity of styles and historic periods
- Become aware of a variety of ensemble and rehearsal techniques
- Develop and refine concepts of outstanding tone quality, nuance, color, intonation, balance and blend, articulation, rhythmic precision, phrasing, dynamics, and ensemble clarity
- Improve listening skills to create a flexible and interactive performance
- Strengthen methods and ideas learned in applied lessons, music theory, music history, music education and composition courses
- Refine performance skills toward that of a professional level
- Participate in a rehearsal process that will provide opportunities for personal and ensemble artistry, creativity, and expression
- Develop an increased awareness of important and significant works written for the brass ensemble
- Develop the ability to work creatively and collaboratively to create musically intelligent performances

COURSE RATIONALE

Performance in the BSBE allows for continued growth and development of both individual and ensemble performance skills. Performing in the ensemble serves as an extension of a student's applied lesson experience and increases their overall knowledge and musical experience, by focusing on outcomes and standards that will service career objectives of future music educators and professional performers.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All musicians in the Ball State Brass Ensemble must have:

- Instrument (personally owned or rented from the university instrument room)
- Specific instrument accessories (mouthpiece, valve oil, etc.)
- Sheet music (either student-printed copies or digital access, details below)
- Pencil or stylus
- Concert Black attire (details below)

REGULAR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 5:30pm-7:00pm, MI 152

Please check your email for any changes to rehearsal times/locations, information regarding rehearsal music order, and other items pertaining to Brass Ensemble. Rehearsals will begin on time.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

*Reed's Masters Recital: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7:30pm, Sursa Hall

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 7:00pm, Sursa Hall

Additional performances TBA

REHEARSAL RECORDINGS/NOTES

Following some rehearsals, recordings of the day's rehearsal will be made available for students. In addition, rehearsal notes will be sent to the ensemble with suggestions for improvement and areas of concern. It is the responsibility of the players to review the recordings and rehearsal notes, and practice problem spots, prior to the next rehearsal.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

Your final grade will be determined by a combination of your 1. Attendance and punctuality, 2. Individual performance, and 3. Attitude/contribution to creating a professional rehearsal atmosphere (no cell phones, texting, computers, reading for other courses, hats, food or drink in the rehearsal room, etc.)

1. Attendance (50%) (perfect attendance is the "norm")

Regular rehearsal attendance will be taken.

Absence policies

- One letter grade lowered for each unexcused absence from rehearsal
- Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade
- Two letter grades lowered for an unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal
- One letter grade lowered for every three unexcused tardies
- Half a letter grade will be lowered for a tardy on a performance date
- Failing grade for an unexcused absence from a performance

Excused absences for rehearsals (must be approved by the instructors)

- Funeral/wedding in immediate family (not extended family)
- Family Crisis - Serious Illness - Religious obligations
- Career related conflicts (Auditions for a full-time professional music position or graduate school, job interview, major-specific events required by other professors)
- Members are not excused for recitals or concerts unless they are performing as a member of an official School of Music ensemble
- Illness requires a doctor's note. Please visit the health center or a personal doctor for illnesses.

Procedure for missing rehearsal

All absences must be communicated via email to both Dr. Campbell and Reed prior to the affected rehearsal. Please communicate known absences as early as possible. It is recommended to communicate to section members to facilitate part coverage whenever possible.

2. Individual Performance (25%)

Grades may be lower at the discretion of the instructors for the following: failure to prepare parts prior to rehearsals (includes all aspects of performance), inability to perform at a musically acceptable level, lack of focus during rehearsals, etc. Any member of the ensemble that is not prepared for rehearsals may be removed from the ensemble at the discretion of the instructor.

3. Attitude/Contribution to the Ensemble (25%)

- Arrive early to all rehearsals and performances
- Allow time to assemble your instrument and warm-up
- During the full ensemble rehearsal warm-up and tuning, focus on fundamentals of tone production, intonation, balance, blend, and listening skills
- Approach rehearsals in an artistic and professional manner
- Have a pencil or stylus at all rehearsals and mark your music as needed
- Maintain personal discipline at all times
- Make music...not sounds

Cell phone usage/texting during rehearsal

- Cell phones/smart phones are not permitted during rehearsal **aside from use as a tuner**. Cell phones/smart phones should be **silenced** prior to rehearsal.
- Cell phones/smart phones should be packed away during rehearsal, not left out on stands or in sight at any time during rehearsal.
- *A student's grade may be lowered by one letter grade at the discretion of the instructors for each infraction of this policy.*

Should you have any questions about any of the above policies, please consult the instructors.

CONCERT DRESS

It is important that the Ball State Brass Ensemble presents a professional appearance at all performances. Please note the required performance attire below.

- Option 1: Concert Black, i.e., black dress pants, black long sleeve button down dress shirt, black socks, and appropriate black dress shoes (no sandals/sneakers/Crocs)
- Option 2: Concert Black, i.e., long, black dress, skirt or dress trousers, sleeves should be $\frac{3}{4}$ to full length, dark tights or stockings, and appropriate black dress shoes. No bare shoulders, no bare midriff, and appropriate neckline.
- *Students with inappropriate concert attire will be asked to change and will be given an unexcused tardy/absence if not corrected by the call time/performance time.*

For assistance obtaining professional dress attire, all Ball State students are encouraged to visit the

Cardinal Closet in the ground floor of Studebaker West. You can find more information on their website: <https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/housing/get-involved/student-organizations/student-action-team/cardinal-closet>

SHEET MUSIC

All sheet music will be available via Ball State OneDrive. A link for the music can be found on Canvas.

It is the responsibility of the player to print/bring their music to every rehearsal and performance. Music may be accessed via a tablet or laptop for rehearsals, but laptops will not be permitted on stage for performance. If a student chooses to access their music digitally, they must make sure they have a method of marking their music (trackpad, stylus, etc.) with all rehearsal notes from instructors. If marking printed copies of music, use pencil or erasable pen only, no permanent ink or markers.

If you have an issue with music parts, send an email with the ensemble name, instrument/part, and issue to Dr. Campbell and Reed.

FACILITIES

- No eating or drinking in MI 152 (resealable water bottles allowed)
- Do not place food or drinks on the piano in MI 152
- Percussion instruments and piano should be covered at the conclusion of rehearsals
- Do not play instruments in the halls
- Respect our facilities at all times

SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT

Contents of this syllabus are subject to change during the semester to institute a policy change or include a new policy based on university policies.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & SERVICES

University Statement

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.

Attendance Policy

Faculty are required to establish their own attendance policies for their courses and ensure that they communicate these policies through their course syllabi. See [this study](#) on the link between attendance and student success. Describe your attendance policy. Be sure to follow the following guidance:

- Course attendance policies are up to the individual faculty but must be consistent with [University policies regarding student absences](#). Absences will be excused for the following: funeral and bereavement leave, jury duty, late course addition, military absences, observance of religious holidays, pregnancy leave, student-athletes participating in University- or department-approved activities, and university advisories.
- Students may encounter other circumstances (e.g. car accidents, job interviews) that result in course absences. Only faculty members can excuse these absences and adjustments are at the discretion of

the instructor. Where possible, and with sufficient documentation, faculty should support student educational activities.

- Consider field-specific best practices as well as student well-being.
- In general, students are expected to notify all their instructors once they anticipate being absent for any reason (e.g., funeral) or as soon as possible after the absence begins (e.g., unexpected injury or illness). The student may need to provide documentation (with confidential information redacted when appropriate) to each instructor if requested.

You should take attendance in all classes—even if you do not assign points for attendance. You will be asked to verify students' attendance and provide the last date of attendance for a student in association with financial aid requirements. In addition, you will be expected to submit attendance verification and midterm progress report on EAB Navigate.

For online courses, documenting that a student has logged into the class is not sufficient to demonstrate attendance. It is recommended that instructors have weekly mechanisms for documenting student attendance and engagement with the courses (e.g., discussion board, submission of assignment)].

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), the resources on Ball State's [Freedom of Expression webpage](#), and [Ball State's Beneficence Pledge](#).

Title IX

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit [bsu.edu/titleix](https://www.bsu.edu/titleix) or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu.

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? *The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant **chooses** to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,*

- *Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.*
- *If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.*

University Grade Appeal Policy

If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the [University Grade Appeal Policy and Process](#).

Student Academic Ethics Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's [academic integrity website](#) (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with me if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

Generative AI Statement

[It is up to the faculty and/or their academic unit to determine if, when, and how generative AI use is permitted. It is strongly recommended that faculty clearly communicate their expectations about students' use of AI in their course. Note that many applications (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word, Canva, OneNote, and Evernote) have AI built-in features such as text predictions and AutoComplete as well as organizing and summarizing information. Below are three potential approaches, published by the [University of Pittsburgh](#), which can be copied verbatim or modified to fit your needs. Faculty are encouraged to engage in dialogue with their students about the use of AI and academic integrity. For AI information, tools, resources, and courses, see [AI Initiatives at BSU](#).]

- **No Use of Generative AI Permitted**

All work conducted and/or submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the Ball State University's [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#). You may not collaborate with or make use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI applications at any time to develop materials submitted in this course.

- **Some Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission**

During this class, we may use ChatGPT or other generative AI applications. You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted to be used, along with guidance for attribution. [Indicate your expectations regarding use of applications with AI built-in features]. Any use outside of this permission constitutes a violation of Ball State University's [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

- **Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted/Encouraged Within Specified Guidelines**

The use of Generative AI tools, including ChatGPT, is encouraged/permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. You may choose to use AI tools to help brainstorm assignments or projects or to revise existing work you have written. [Indicate your expectations regarding use of applications with AI built-in features]. However, you must cite any AI-generated material that informed your work. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution constitutes a violation of Ball State University's [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsui.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to bsu.navigate.eab.com.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit bsu.edu/learningcenter or call 765-285-1006. Follow us on Instagram: [BallStateLC](#).

The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing.

The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to [bsu.edu/writingcenter](https://www.bsu.edu/writingcenter). Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the **Basic Needs Hub**. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a **Basic Needs Assistance Form**.

The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found [here](#).

The Speaking Center

The **Speaking Center** is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.

The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this [direct link](#) to sign up for a time. Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.