

OBOE STUDIO SYLLABUS
University of North Texas
College of Music
Effective Spring 2020

James Ryon, Professor
Jonathan Thompson, Adjunct Instructor
(12/28/2019)

SYLLABUS

Spring 2020 and onward

MUAM:	1509, 3509, 5509, 6509	Major Oboe (English Horn & Oboe d'Amore) Lessons
MUAC:	1509, 3509, 5509, 6509	Concentration Oboe Lessons
MUAS:	1509, 3509, 5509, 6509	Secondary Oboe Lessons

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Studio Class: Mon., 6:00 – 7:30 pm (or later for guest artists) Rm. 232
Fri., 1:00 – 1:50 pm, Rm .132

Reed Classes: Scheduled and taught by Teaching Fellow in Double Reed Room, Music Annex Rm. 108

Office Hours: By appointment

Materials (Majors and Concentrations):

Required Music:

- Barret - Oboe Method
- Ferling 48 Famous Studies
- Andraud - Vade Mecum of the Oboist
- Other Literature as Assigned (see oboe repertoire list in Study Guide)

Required Equipment & Supplies:

- Professional Model Oboe and Case
- Cases for 15 Oboe Reeds
- Case for 3 English Horn Reeds
- Electronic Metronome
- Chromatic Electronic Tuner with Speaker and Clip-on Microphone
- Reed Making Equipment (as listed below)
- Maintenance and Repair Equipment (as listed below)
- Oboe Notebook (3 ring loose-leaf binder)

Required Reed Making Equipment:

- Gouged Cane - Minimum of twenty (20) pieces of oboe cane and five (5) pieces of EH cane on hand at all times.
- Millimeter Ruler - Must be metal with finely etched lines.
- Staples - Minimum of twenty (15) oboe and five (5) EH staples on hand at all times. The oboe staples must be 47 mm and the EH staples must be 27 mm, both of nickel silver alloy. Loree, Chirugi 47-2, and Rigotti staples recommended.
- Mandrels - Oboe mandrel is required. English horn mandrel recommended, but not required as long as student has a corkless oboe staple to use with the oboe mandrel as a substitute EH mandrel.
- Plaques - Minimum of two (2) on hand at all times - thin and narrow blue steel.
- Cutting Block - Grenadilla wood with smooth, slightly convex surface.
- Knives - One (1) Landwell (M or H) or comparable hollow ground knife.
- Sharpening Stone & Steel - Norton FB6 or FB35 fine india stone.
- Reed Thread - Nylon or Silk – FF, EE or F gauge
- Beeswax
- Razor Blades - Industrial pack of 100 is the most economical
- Sandpaper - Four (4) pieces of 600 grit Silicon Carbide

Optional Reed Equipment:

- Shaper Tip - Required by Junior year. Current recommendations: Adam/Joshua, Joshua +2, Caleb-1, Pfeiffer/Mack/RDG, RDG-1. Consult before buying!
- Gouging Machine - Highly recommended, especially before the end of undergraduate or graduate degree program. Current recommendations: Ross, Innoledy, RDG, Graf. Consult before buying!
- Micrometer - For gauging cane thickness - available from RDG, Jeanné, Coelho, et al.
- Sandpaper – 100, 300 & 600 grit are useful for reed tips, corks & gougers
- EZLap diamond plate 6x3 or 8x3, Forschner 10” Smooth Sharpening Steel Required

Instrument Maintenance Equipment:

- Swab - Silk or cotton, non-pull-through - it's safer.
- Paint Brush - For weekly dusting of oboe.
- Cigarette Papers - Ungummed, for adjustments and removal of water.
- Screw Drivers - tips should range between 1 and 2 mm.

Optional Instrument Maintenance Equipment:

- Octave Vent Remover - Highly recommended for solving octave vent problems.
- Feathers - White or gray turkey (none of the dyed variety). Recommended for water redistribution in bore and quick action.
- Spring Hook - 6” for mounting and unmounting springs - faster than screw driver.

Note: Oboe students must plan to obtain all required materials before or as soon as possible during their first semester of study. Any delay in these acquisitions may hinder progress, performance and grade in these courses.

Lessons:

MUAM:1509, 3509, 5509, 6509 and MUAC: 1509, 3509, 5509, 6509 consist of individual lessons, reed classes, technical exams, studio classes and additional master classes as scheduled. Lessons will cover technical requirements (scales, arpeggios and other exercises), etudes by Barret and Ferling, solo repertoire, chamber repertoire and large ensemble repertoire as outlined in the Oboe Studio Study Guide.

To maximize lesson time, students must warm up (instrument, reed, embouchure, fingers, mind and body) prior to the lesson and knock on the studio door at the lesson time. Students are encouraged to express what they hope to cover in the lesson and show an eagerness to learn when they walk through the door. Students should bring all appropriate music, instruments and materials to lessons and classes, including their oboe notebook, which will be used to consolidate all lesson-related information and serve as a plan and record of study.

UNT gives high priority to research by faculty. In the field of music performance, “research” means performing concerts. From time to time, weekly lessons may have to be rescheduled to accommodate the professor’s performance schedule, or given via live-streaming with the assistance of a graduate oboe student. On occasion, an extra master class may replace an individual lesson, when performance commitments allow no alternative. Graduate students may also be asked to assist in undergraduate teaching. Oboe students are expected to check UNT e-mail daily for announcements, course materials, or changes in schedule.

Studio Classes:

Studio Class meetings are scheduled at the beginning of the semester and participation is required of all oboe majors and concentrations. The class covers topics such as oboe fundamentals, pedagogy, practice techniques, memorization, oboe/EH adjustment and maintenance, solo & ensemble performances and orchestral repertoire. Students may be required to comment on, and offer suggestions about student performances in class. Oboe students are also required to attend performances by oboe faculty, as well as degree recitals by colleagues in the oboe studio.

Students will be required to perform in studio class as assigned. For accompanied solos the student must engage a pianist at least three weeks in advance of the performance, and must rehearse with the pianist for a minimum of 1/2 hour and play with piano in a lesson for at least 1/2 hour, at least once prior to the class. The student is responsible for the accompanist's fee, comportment and preparation. Students are strongly advised to use accompanists recommended by the UNT staff.

Orchestral repertoire and other master classes may be scheduled from time to time to supplement the Studio Class. Listening assignments will be part of the curriculum for oboe study, as well as other course work for the College of Music. The Oboe Studio Web Site has a list of orchestral repertoire that students are expected to listen to, and be familiar with over the course of their degree program. Listening tests on this material will be administered during oboe studio classes.

Oboe/English Horn Reed Classes:

Reed classes will be divided into several sections. Participation in at least one hour of class per week is required of all undergraduate oboe majors and concentrations until the student receives an "A" grade on two consecutive reed exams. Students are required to bring their reed equipment and a minimum of three (3) new reeds to each lesson and reed class. Students are expected to make an average of one or two reeds per day to advance their reed making skills. Students who have completed the mandatory requirement are welcome to participate informally in these classes. Graduate students may be assigned a reed class for remedial work in reed making.

Secondary Oboe Study:

Students enrolled in secondary oboe study are exempt from the requirements for, and mandatory attendance at oboe studio classes, reed classes and other studio events. However, secondary students are encouraged to attend these classes and events to broaden their understanding of the oboe. Secondary students are encouraged, but not required to make their own reeds, but are responsible for purchasing reeds that meet their instructor's specifications. Technical skills exams are required of secondary students. With the consent of their instructor, secondary students may make any aspect of the concentration requirements, reed classes, studio requirements, etc., part of the syllabus for their lessons. To the extent that these activities are part of their syllabus, they are eligible for access to the reed room and participation in studio class activities.

Attendance:

Since lessons and master classes are participatory in nature, an unexcused absence from a lesson, studio class, reed class, required recital, performance or scheduled master class, will result in an "F" or zero grade for that lesson or class. An unexcused absence is one in which the instructor did not receive a text, phone or e-mail message asking to be excused for good cause prior to the event. More than fifteen (15) minutes late will be considered an absence. Repeated lateness under fifteen minutes will accumulate to an unexcused absence when the total exceeds fifteen (15) minutes. Lessons or classes missed due to excused absence (illness or emergency with prior message or call) will be made up at a time convenient for both professor and student. More than three (3) excused absences may require the student to take an incomplete for the course in a manner consistent with UNT academic policies.

Grading:

Students pursuing an oboe major or concentration are expected to hold oboe performance in high priority with respect to their university curriculum. Since the profession is highly competitive, it is incumbent on the student to make the very most of their tenure at UNT. The minimum expectation for oboe majors is to demonstrate satisfactory technical control of the oboe and English horn, and good understanding of musical style with these instruments as a medium of expression. For most people, this requires at least three to four hours of disciplined practice per day, interspersed with at least an hour or so per day of reed-making, bearing in mind that the actual time spent is not as important as the amount of focused mental energy employed. Students should schedule classes and outside activities to allow enough time to meet their musical goals. Each lesson, class performance and assignment will be graded on the following scale:

- A: Superior preparation of assignments and excellent performances
- B: Average and adequate preparation of assignments and performances
- C: Inadequate preparation of assignments and substandard performances
- F: No attendance and/or preparation for assignments and performances

While UNT does not recognize "plus" and "minus" grades for final semester grades, grades for lessons, performances, reed making, technical exams and listening tests will make use of these gradations on a scale from 0 to 100 for purposes of internal calculation:

A	= 100
A-	= 95
B+	= 90
B	= 87
B-	= 83
C+	= 80
C	= 77
C-	= 73
F	= 0

The average of the **Lesson Grade** and the **Reed making Grade** will constitute 40% of the **Final Grade** for the semester. The remaining 60% of the **Final Grade** will be determined by the average of the end of semester **Jury Exam Grade**, the **Studio Class Grade** and the **Technical Requirements Grade**. The above averages will not include any grade that a student is exempt from due to prior completion or secondary study.

Lesson Grade: consists of the average of the grades for each private lesson during the semester.

Reed Making Grade: consists of the average of the midterm, final, and participation grades.

Jury Exam Grade: consists of the average of the grades given by faculty committee at the student's jury performance or degree recital during the semester.

Studio Class Grade: is the average of the grades given for three studio performances, a listening test and attendance at studio events, including studio classes.

Technical Requirements Grade: is the average of the six technical exams administered by the TF during the semester.

Final Grade:

- A > or = 93
- B > or = 83 and < 93
- C > or = 73 and < 83
- D > or = 63 and < 73
- F < 63

Jury Exams:

Jury Exams are held at the end of each semester during the week prior to exam week. Policies for scheduling and grading Jury Exams are outlined in the UNT Woodwind Area Policy Handbook. All Oboe Major, Concentration and Secondary students are expected to perform a Jury Exam. Jury Exams for Major study are scheduled at different times than for Concentration and Secondary study. The jury is graded by a panel consisting of Applied Wind Faculty of the College of Music. A time and place for Jury Exams will be posted approximately three weeks prior to the end of the semester. The student is responsible for signing up for a jury time in consultation with their accompanist. A repertoire/grading form will be completed by the student and brought to the jury.

Repertoire prepared for the Jury Exam will be approved by the instructor and consist of solo literature, orchestral/chamber excerpts and/or etudes. Decisions concerning a student's jury repertoire are usually made by the seventh (7th) week of the semester. The student must engage an accompanist for the Jury Exam. The accompanist must be present at no less than one lesson with a minimum of one rehearsal prior to the first lesson, as arranged by the student with the accompanist. The student is responsible for the accompanist's fee, compoirtment and preparation. Students are strongly advised to use accompanists recommended by the UNT staff. Professional demeanor and attire are appropriate for Jury Exam performances.

Upper Division Exam (UDE):

Before registering for woodwind lessons at the 3500 levels, all students must pass an Upper Division Examination (UDE). This examination is administered at the end of the 4th semester of 1500 level study. Students must exhibit an acceptable characteristic sound with good intonation, rhythmic stability, endurance, etc. in the performance of appropriate repertoire. If this exam is not passed after the first attempt, additional credit hours may be required by the jury and must be completed before the upper divisional exam may be retaken. This number of credit hours will be added to the student's degree plan. This exam may be taken no more than two times. After two failures the student will be ineligible to continue at his/her current status. Works to be performed at this examination must be level appropriate.

Concentration Proficiency Exit Exam:

Undergraduate concentration students must pass a final proficiency exit exam to complete their applied music study. This exam is normally performed at the end of the 6th semester of applied study but may be performed earlier. The appropriate applied faculty must approve the repertoire. An acceptable recital, adjudicated by a woodwind faculty committee, may substitute for this exam. If this exam is not passed after the first attempt, additional credit hours may be required by the jury and must be completed before the Concentration Proficiency Exit Exam can be retaken. This number of credit hours will be added to the student's degree plan. This exam may be taken no more than two times. After two failures the student will be ineligible to continue at his/her current status.

Course Descriptions:

Refer to the Oboe Studio Study Guide as an outline of expectations for the various course levels.