Professor: Dr. Michael Couper
Room: Music & Dance – 233
Time: M, W: 1:00-1:50 PM
Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Texts:

Suggested Supplementary Texts:
Larry Teal, The Art of Saxophone Playing.
Keith Stein, The Art of Clarinet Playing.

Course Description: M215 is designed to prepare the aspiring music educator with the skills and knowledge necessary to perform and instruct on the various woodwind instruments. Each student will have the opportunity to study and perform on three of the possible five woodwinds. Each session will include lecture/demonstration topics such as: proper assembly, maintenance, tone production, vibrato, tonguing, dynamics, etc. Since you are learning more than one instrument, you will need reeds for clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and bassoon.

Course Requirements: You are expected to practice each instrument! You will gain “real-life” experience through performances of scale studies, technical drills, and chorale-based compositions. A large percentage of understanding the intricacies of the woodwind family is based upon realizing, analyzing, and overcoming the same difficulties each beginning student must face. I will be grading your preparation and playing each class meeting.

Student Outcomes: At the conclusion of this semester, each student will be able to:

1. Assemble 3 of 5 woodwind instruments.
2. Create a good tone.
3. Form a proper embouchure.
4. Identify each part of every woodwind instrument.
5. Create diaphragm and jaw vibrato.
6. Demonstrate the ability to tongue in various styles.
7. Identify and correct intonation issues.
8. Perform musically within an ensemble and as soloist.
9. Perform with proper hand position, posture, and embouchure.
10. Identify various methods and materials used for the beginning woodwind student.
11. Play a series of scales (3#'s, 3b’s, chromatic) on three woodwind instruments.
**Course Outline:** The following outline is based on a repeating five-week program. Every five weeks (approx.) you will be required to study another instrument from the woodwind family. Every student (unless you possess prior playing ability) will learn a single reed (clarinet or saxophone), double reed (bassoon or oboe), and flute.

- Week 2: Review of basic fingerings, long tones, Pearson performances.
- Week 3: Tonguing, creation of vibrato, intonation, and Pearson performances.
- Weeks 4-5: Trill fingerings, continuation of Pearson performances.

**Grading:**
Scales Exams: 60% (20% Each)
Daily preparation, participation, and performance: 30%
Final Written Examination: 10%

**Attendance:** I do not reward students for just showing up to class. I expect (as well as your fellow classmates) that you have practiced your instruments and have tried to problem-solve and analyze issues that arise. *For each missed class (unexcused) or unprepared day, I will deduct 3 points from your final grade.*

**Local Resources for Reeds, Sheet Music, Repairs, etc:**

Saxophonists and Clarinetists should purchase at least 2 reeds. Reeds should be *Rico* or *La Voz* Brand, strength 2.5 or Medium. No plastic reeds.

Oboists and Bassoonists are encouraged to buy one medium to medium-soft reed (Check at Local Music store for brands). If a plastic reed is available, purchase one. It will last for years.

**Local Music Stores**
Alan’s Music Center: 8510 La Mesa Blvd. (619) 466.1938
Ozzie’s Music: 12222 Poway Rd, Suite 5, Poway (858) 748-4721

*This syllabus is subject to change*