

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

SINGLE REED TECHNIQUES, MUS 3232 *WINTER SEMESTER 2021*

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND, ST. JOHN'S NL, CANADA

The statements below are the comments left by the students of MUS 3232 in an anonymous survey taken in lieu of a Course Evaluation Questionnaire. This is not a curated list; it represents the complete collection of comments taken in on March 19, 2021.

What has been the most helpful part of the course so far?

13 responses

Learning about pedagogical approaches to teaching single reeds to beginners.

Office hour times, as well as Kathryn's kindness and helpful nature

I have just overall felt it has been the best and most helpful technique course I've done. Very understanding of the level we are all starting at, and that most of us in this course intend to use these skills to teach, so i have really liked the whole angle the course has been caught at!

The trivia/class presentations

The **office hours** and midterms were very helpful where we could ask specific questions about our playing.

Office Hours

Feedback on the midterm playing test

The trivia helped a lot with reinforcing new concepts and ideas.

A few videos about embouchure and air support were released that helped me a lot! Also the one on one help was very helpful!

One on one sessions and group discussions

watching student videos

I absolutely love the course content, learning fun ways to teach and the pedagogical knowledge we've acquired. For example, I really love the opportunity to do the self reflections as this is something useful I can save for future teaching.

The recordings and midterm because I got to use the instrument and feel it out.

How is the overall level of organization? Were the topics delivered in a logical sequence?

12 responses

Structured and relaxed. Logical and precise

The level of organization was great!

Yes! very organized and also very helpful to get an idea of how we should teach our own students.

Seems pretty organized to me. I have no complaints.

Yes, but I do wish we had more class time!

I think it was organized well, I think there could've been more discussion on air support at the beginning of the course.

The organization is great. I like the balance between clarinet and saxophone, and the lessons help with my appreciation of the instruments.

Yes the topics were delivered in a good order!

Very high level of organization

Yes!

I wish this class was longer, even an 1 hour and 15, that way we could have time to learn content and practice exercises in class on our instruments! I think you've done a fantastic job with this course and it is very well organized!

The organization was good, I learned a lot.

Are there any parts of the class that you thought were not specifically useful and could be removed from the lesson plans for sake of time management? Ex. content that overlapped with other courses, or something you already knew?

11 responses

No

The only thing I can think of was the one class where we talked about famous saxophone and clarinet musicians, but I also understand that this is a very unique and weird way to be teaching a techniques course so can be hard to plan week to week

I think that everything that has been discussed will be useful for someone in the class. For example, I understand how breathing into an instrument works, however someone like a string player or a percussionist may not!

Since I had a little experience with woodwind instruments before this class I did already have a basic understanding and some things were not particularly useful for me, but I do feel as though everything that has been covered is pretty essential for an absolute beginner.

I think all of the topics we've covered have been useful for our playing and teaching in the future.

No, I thought everything about the lessons were well-executed

no.

N/A - I feel that everything that has been taught so far has been relevant and important.

the trivia

I think Trivia sometimes took up a lot class time. As much as I really enjoy it, I think it should be no longer than 8-10 minutes and a fun send off at the end of class!

The trivia did not help me at all, but the notes and discussion did, and the recordings helped a lot.

What information has NOT yet been covered that you think would help in your future career as a teacher? (that we could add to our agenda sometime in the next 4 weeks)

9 responses

learning how to articulate/tongue notes

There is nothing specific that I feel we need to cover, and I'm sure whatever you have planned will be useful to our teaching careers

Examples of what is a bad sound/good sound.

I would like to see a little time in class for actual playing, but I understand that the time constraints can be tight. Perhaps time can be allotted to introduce either new notes or techniques?

transposing might be helpful?

I think it would be helpful to differentiate between techniques that are specific to just one instrument. This could go across all woodwind instruments and not just saxophone and clarinet. In beginner band students, I am curious as to whether if beginning woodwind students become close friends could they show other woodwind players the techniques on their instrument and then the person they're showing tries them on their own instrument and develops bad habits.

information regarding the other instrument (sax and clarinet)

Articulation/Tonguing. We could also have a fun, relaxed performance class where everyone gets to perform one piece so we can hear each others progress! :)

I think more information on how to play the instrument, as well as more diagnostic information (how to diagnose a problem in a students playing/what to look for) would be helpful!

How has the delivery of Single Reed Techniques differed from your other techniques courses?

13 responses

Much better, more time spent in a more realistic standpoint, knowing that we will be educators in NL schools where we will have to adapt to what we are given and the students that we have.

Much much better. Many of us in this course had just finished dealing with a temporary strings teacher who refused to move on in technique or explanations until the entire class developed perfect pitch, safe to say we got nothing from that course. **Overall this course is so much more**

focused on the aspect of teaching these skills to others one way, which has been so greatly appreciated.

This is my first techniques course so i'm not sure. We do use zoom for the rest of our classes, so that is a difference

It being online has obviously made it drastically different from other techniques courses, with the most obvious being that we don't usually play in class, but I think that is probably best for an online course

It is much the same, with the exception of not being able to play in class. Also, the grading was very fair, we had a really bad experience with excessive critiques and it was nice to be graded more on effort than performance/perfection.

This is the first technique course i've taken

The structure has been quite similar to previous technique classes, although I miss being in person! I think this class is handling the online obstacles so well.

this is my first techniques course.

There was not a large difference.

Trying to teach a new instrument online is very challenging, but I think the way this course is being taught is working great.

It is a lot less stressful which is amazing

This was by far the BEST techniques course I have taken. To be honest, the first two that I completed I found were not engaging enough and were more lecture style for the 50 minutes and left no time for actually playing the instruments/asking questions. OR we would have weekly masterclasses that I felt were stressful and unnecessary. You have made this such an incredible experience, and handled the online format very well. Thank you so much for everything you do for us!

In other techniques courses we had MUCH more hands on playing, but I believe this was due to the in person forum and at no fault of the instructor.

What is your overall impression of the course and instructor?

13 responses

Very helpful and insightful. Encourages learning

Awesome!

10/10. Very well taught course, especially given the circumstances of being an online techniques course.

The course is fun and gets me excited for teaching. The instructor is very knowledgeable and makes class relaxing and pleasant environment.

Seems like a very well put together course. I have no issues with the method of instruction

Good, very helpful.

The course is very useful, I feel like I would be able to guide a beginner clarinet or sax player when learning how to play their instrument. The instructor has been very helpful in offering feedback and making the information understandable.

The course is well-organized and you can tell that the instructor is passionate about her work. The course is well balanced with both clarinet and saxophone, and the slideshows provide great information about teaching single reeds.

I have really enjoyed the course and instructor so far.

Very good, caring, and positive :)

i enjoy it both very much

I love you Kathryn, you are my favourite techniques prof by far!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I want to take this course again with Saxophone and would do so if it counted toward my technique credit!

The instructor is great and the class is very fun and engaging.

Were all of your needs met as a student? If not, how can I better provide for those unmet needs?

13 responses

Yes

Absolutely. Extra help was offered even when not sought out, understanding of levels of progress differing between students, not a bad thing to say.

Yes, everything has been great so far!

All of my needs as a student have been met

I know that things would be a lot easier for everyone if we were in person in terms of fixing issues, and I think we did the best we could given the circumstances! I wouldn't change anything in terms of that.

I think so. The only thing that would make the course better would be experience on both instruments, which I know we can't do because of restrictions!

Yes! I appreciate that time can be taken outside of class when extra help is needed and the instructor is prompt with her replies to questions.

All needs met.

I think more one-on-one time would be helpful for me personally, but I believe that the extra Saturday class in place of Good Friday will be for this purpose.

yes, I would like to learn more

You have went above and beyond for us, and I really appreciate your immediate email responses :)

I learned a lot from this class and found it very helpful. I felt that it prepared me for teaching band as a future music teacher!

Is there anything else you want me to know?

6 responses

You're doing a great job!

Thank you for always being so supportive :)

All good!

You're doing a great job! :)

I wish I could've attended more offices hours; however, my schedule did not often allow that. I am hoping to attending at least a couple before classes are finished.

I personally was slightly upset when I received an email saying that I had a poor participation grade because I do not speak in class. I do not speak in any other class and I have never had this issue, and I not aware that not speaking in class would result in a participation mark that was so low. I am not bothered by a low grade, as I will still do quite well in the class, but I think it is quite unfair to require people to respond to class discussion as it may cause people anxiety and stress. Some people are simply not comfortable or do not live in an atmosphere where turning on their mic is always possible. This was my ONLY issue with this course. Overall, I learned a lot in this class and found the instructor very engaging, fun and interesting. I enjoyed the information and I really liked the class, and I found instructor feedback very helpful and understanding, I just thought this requirement was unfair and I have never experienced it before.