USA SYMPHONY BAND
MUO 117.101, MUO 117.102 (No web component)
MUO 417.101, MUO 417.102 (No web component)
SPRING 2014
Syllabus: Policies and Procedures

Description
Instructors: Dr. Michael Phillips, Laidlaw Performing Arts Center, 1072
Dr. William Peterson, Laidlaw Performing Arts Center 1072
Office Phone: 251-46074723
Email: michaelphillips@southalabama.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (9:00am-4:00pm)

Course Description
A select performing ensemble of woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists with an emphasis on symphonic band literature and live performance. Open to music majors and non-majors with prior instrumental performance experience in high school or junior college. Audition or permission of instructor required for participation.

Congratulations! You have auditioned and been accepted for inclusion in one of the premiere instrumental performing ensemble at the University of South Alabama. As a member of the USA Symphony Band, you will be expected to be prepared mentally and musically for each rehearsal. When talented and energetic people come together in one organization, magical things happen. As your conductors, we look forward to each memorable moment with great anticipation. Professionalism, maturity, dedication, ability, preparation, attitude, and discipline are important ingredients to achieve success. Together, as we grow and learn from each other, these are the ideals we must embrace, and ultimately achieve.

Rehearsals
Rehearsals for the USA Symphony Band are from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in LPAC Rehearsal Hall (LPAC 1230) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Regular rehearsals will be held during scheduled class times. Dress rehearsals will be held the day before (and possibly the evening before) the concert at the performance site. Rehearsals are designed to work on elements of ensemble and musicality, not for learning individual parts. It is the responsibility of each performer to be able to play all technical aspects of the assigned music prior to rehearsal. You will be responsible for arranging your own transportation (and transportation for your music/instrument) to rehearsals and performances. Performances are scheduled once during the Fall semester and twice during the Spring semester. Additional performances will be scheduled in advance to accommodate your schedule.

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances. Excused absences will be considered only for verifiable illness, family emergency, or university sponsored (and excused) activities. Contact me prior to an absence for consideration. Other reasons for absence (i.e. work, late study nights, oversleeping, etc.) are not acceptable.

Punctuality at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances is extremely important. Performers should warm up individually and be seated at the stated times.

Evaluation Criteria

Grades will be based on attendance/punctuality (70%), preparation for the daily rehearsal (10%), improvement (10%), professionalism (10%). An unexcused absence to a rehearsal will lower your letter grade by one letter. For example, one unexcused absence = B, two unexcused absence = C, three unexcused absences = D, and more than three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Excessive tardiness (more than three) is cause for a lowered grade. Absence from a performance will result in a failing grade unless extreme mitigating circumstances (as determined by the conductors) occur.

A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=59% or lower
Rehearsal & Performance Schedule (Course Topical Outline)

All concert and rehearsal dates are considered contractual. Any requests for additional performances will be submitted to the Symphony Band and prior commitments will be honored. Report time is one-half hour prior to the performance.

**Fall 2013 Rehearsal Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8/24</td>
<td>Thursday, 10/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8/21</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 8/26</td>
<td>Thursday, 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 8/28</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9/2</td>
<td>Thursday, 10/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 9/4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9/9</td>
<td>Thursday, 11/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 9/11</td>
<td>Sunday, 11/9 Dress Rehearsal, 6:00-7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9/16</td>
<td>Monday, 11/10 Concert 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 9/18</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9/23</td>
<td>Thursday, 11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 9/25</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 9/29 Dress Rehearsal, 6:00-7:30pm</td>
<td>Thursday, 11/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 9/30 Day Rehearsal &amp; Concert 7:30pm</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 10/2</td>
<td>Thursday, 11/27 Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 10/7</td>
<td>Tuesday, 12/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 10/9</td>
<td>Thursday 12/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 10/14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fall 2014 Performance 1:**

Sept 29th: MON, 6:00-7:30pm, Dress Rehearsal, LPAC Recital Hall

Sept 30th: TUES, 7:30 pm, Concert, LPAC Recital Hall

**Fall 2014 Performance 2:**

Nov 9th: SUN, 6:00-8:00PM, Dress Rehearsal, LPAC Rec Hall

Nov 10th: MON, 7:30pm, Concert, LPAC Recital Hall

**Concert Attire**

*MEN:* Black tuxedo/suit, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black shoes. Avoid strong colognes.

*WOMEN:* Black dress (of reasonable length) or black slacks/blouse or black skirt/blouse with black shoes. A white blouse may be worn, but black on top is preferred. Keep jewelry to a minimum and avoid strong perfumes.

**General**

- Music should be prepared prior to rehearsals. Rehearsals are for working on ensemble (i.e. blend, balance, precision, tone quality, intonation, etc.), not for working out fingerings, notes, and technical passages.
- You should have your music at all rehearsals. Notify the librarian that you are lacking a selection.
- Be respectful of all conductors, guest conductors, student conductors, soloists and guests!
- Bring a pencil to class every day! **USE THE PENCIL TO MARK YOUR MUSIC!**
- A music rehearsal order will be listed on the board every day. Arrange your music and equipment in rehearsal order prior to the beginning of rehearsal. All percussionists should assist with set up and tear down.
- Work together! The ultimate goal is to be successful as an ensemble. Put aside personal differences to work toward that end.
- Always communicate with me to avoid undue stress in both our lives.
Ten Principles of Success
1. Show up on time.
2. Pay attention.
3. Ask good questions.
4. Get help before you really need it.
5. Willingly help others.
6. “I can’t” is not synonymous with “I don’t want to.”
7. You don’t have to “like” a task (or piece of music) to excel at it.
9. The problem isn’t the problem. How you handle the problem—that’s the problem.
10. Don’t even think of giving up!

Students with Disabilities
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the professor and provide certification from the Office of Special Students Services. OSSS is located at 5828 Old Shell Road at Jaguar Drive, (251-460-7212).

Changes in Course Requirements
Not all classes progress at the same rate thus course requirements might have to be modified as circumstances dictate. You will be given written notice if the course requirements need to be changed.

Academic Disruption Policy
The University of South Alabama’s policy regarding Academic Disruption is found in The Lowdown, in the student handbook. http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml: Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment. Students are expected to be cordial, courteous, and respectful of faculty members and fellow students.

Cell phone usage is expressly forbidden during rehearsals.

Student Academic Conduct Policy
The University of South Alabama’s policy regarding Student Academic Conduct Policy is found in The Lowdown, the student handbook. http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml: The University of South Alabama is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of the individual are sustained. The University is committed to supporting the exercise of any right guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution and the Code of Alabama and to educating students relative to their responsibilities.

Course and Teacher Evaluation
Student input for course improvement is extremely important. Course and Teacher Evaluations will be distributed each semester. Your evaluations are taken seriously and do effect change.

JagAlert
JagAlert is a program intended to help students be successful in 100-200 level courses. If you are not doing well, you will receive an email instructing you to see your professor, along with instructions to access an online tutorial intended to help with common problems affecting academic performance. Watch for this email during week eight of this semester.
Online Writing Support

- The University of South Alabama provides online writing tutoring services through SMARTTHINKING, an online tutoring service. SMARTTHINKING is available at http://services.smarthinking.com. Students may enter the site by logging on with their Jag number and using the last four digits of the social security number as the password. For log-on problems, technical questions and/or on-campus writing assistance, contact the USA Writing Center at 251-460-6480 or e-mail csaint-paul@usouthal.edu.

- Information about the University Writing Center and Online Writing Lab can be found online at http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/instruction/antiplagiarism/writinghelp.html.