

MUO 121/421 USA JAZZ BAND

Instructor:

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Course Description:

The ensemble study of jazz with an emphasis on literature and live performance. Rehearsals for the USA Jazz Band are held Monday & Wednesday from 1:25 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. in LPAC Rehearsal Hall. An additional fifty minute sectional will be held once a week (starting the second week of classes) to be arranged by the students of each instrumental section. Dress rehearsals will generally be held the day before a concert at the performance site. Each student is responsible for arranging their own transportation (and transportation for your music/instrument) to rehearsals and performances. Performances are scheduled at least once each semester. Additional performances will be scheduled in advance to accommodate your schedule.

Auditions:

Instrumentation for the USA Jazz Ensemble is 5 saxophones, 4 trombones, 4 trumpets and rhythm section. Auditions will be necessary if there are more players than needed on specific instruments. Auditions will be used to determine membership in the ensemble and will consist of sightreading a short excerpt of jazz music. Students will be ranked according to their audition scores and the top students will be allowed to enroll in the ensemble. Students who do not make the ensemble will need to drop the course if already enrolled. Students who have been awarded a scholarship to perform in the jazz ensemble will lose their funding if they do not make the ensemble. Auditions will be held at the beginning of each semester. Students who do not make the ensemble may audition again at the beginning of the following semester.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals, sectionals, dress rehearsals, and performances. Excused absences will be considered only for verifiable illness, family emergency, or university sponsored (and excused) activities and will require written documentation. In addition, the jazz ensemble director must be notified personally by the student prior to the absence for it to be excused. **(Do not have another student tell me that you are going to miss rehearsal)**. Other reasons for absence (i.e. work, late study nights) are not acceptable. Punctuality at all rehearsals, sectionals, dress rehearsals, and performances is extremely important. Please be warmed-up and seated at 1:25 pm. Percussionists should arrive early and have all drumset equipment set up and be ready to play by 1:25 pm. If you are going to be absent and are sharing music with someone, make sure that the music gets to rehearsal.

Sectionals:

Each section of the ensemble (saxophones, trombones, trumpets, rhythm section) are required to meet for an additional fifty minute sectional each week, outside of regular rehearsal times. The reason for the sectional is to work out difficult ensemble parts, soli sections and improve on articulation, phrasing and intonation problems. The lead player for each section will run the sectional with input from everyone. Lead players will also take attendance and report to the jazz ensemble director the progress of the sectional and any problems that occur at the next ensemble rehearsal. On the first day of class, the students in each section will decide on a time for their section to meet and pass this information along to the jazz ensemble director who will then reserve rooms for each section. The rhythm section will have their sectional in the rehearsal hall and should look at the schedule posted on the outside of the hall to see when the hall is available before deciding on a sectional time. Sectionals will start the second week of class. The jazz ensemble director will at times come to sectionals unannounced to check on the progress.

Individual Practice:

Each student in the jazz ensemble should practice their parts outside of rehearsal time so they are prepared for each rehearsal. Rehearsal time is not the time to work out individual parts but is time used for working on group performance. Since students are responsible for preparing all assigned parts outside of rehearsal time, they maybe asked to perform individually in rehearsal if needed. A poor performance will have a negative impact on the student's grade.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale (90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F). Grades will be determined by rehearsal, sectional, dress rehearsal and performance attendance, punctuality, and general contribution and preparation for the daily rehearsal. Each unexcused absence to a rehearsal or sectional will lower the final grade by 10 points. Absence from a dress rehearsal will lower the final grade by 30 points. Each unexcused tardy to a rehearsal or sectional will lower the final grade by 5 points. Contact me prior to an absence/tardy for excused consideration. Absences/tardies will not be considered if contacted after the rehearsal. An absence from a performance will result in a failing grade unless extreme mitigating circumstances occur.

Dress Rehearsal

An evening dress rehearsal will be held during the week of the concert to perform a sound check and to run the program in its entirety. The dress rehearsal is mandatory for all members participating in the USA Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo. See the performance schedule for dates and times of the dress rehearsal.

USA Jazz Combo

The USA Jazz Combo is a small ensemble consisting of a rhythm section and/or several wind instruments. Participation in the combo will be determined by the student's ability to improvise and the instrumentation needs of the ensemble. Repertoire for concerts will be determined by members of the combo and the director. Selections for the concert will be performed for the director at least 6 weeks prior to the concert date. Combo members are expected to practice their music and attend all rehearsals. Students who cannot meet these requirements will not be allowed to participate in the combo.

Performance Schedule:

All dress rehearsal and concert dates are considered contractual. Any requests for additional performances will be submitted to the band and prior commitments will be honored.

Dress Rehearsal/Performances Fall Semester 2008

Jazz Band Dress Rehearsal: Monday, November 3, 2008, 6:30-8:30 pm, LPAC Recital Hall

Jazz Band and Combo Spring Concert: Tuesday, November 4, 2008, 7:30 pm, LPAC Recital Hall

Concert Attire:

Black dress pants and dress shirt.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The University does not permit the possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol by an individual on any of its campuses and in any of its facilities except as designated. The possession, consumption, and/or distribution of illegal substances without a medical prescription are forbidden. Violation of either policy is subject to both University administrative action and criminal prosecution. See The Lowdown for a full description of the policy. Students who show up to a rehearsal, dress rehearsal or performance under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be subject to university administrative action and criminal prosecution.

Commitment to the Ensemble

Students who sign up for the jazz ensemble should be committed to the group. Unlike other classes, where absences and poor performance may only affect the grade of the individual student, the jazz ensemble is greatly affected by each student's attendance record and performance preparation. It is expected that all students who enroll in the jazz ensemble be at all rehearsals on time, and to have their music prepared before the rehearsal.

General Procedure:

1. 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. Practice your jazz ensemble music every day!
2. If you are sharing an instrument with an individual in another ensemble, it is your responsibility to have that instrument available to the other person whether you are available or not!
3. Be respectful of all guest artists!
4. Bring a pencil to class every day for marking your part.
5. Work together! The ultimate goal is to be successful as an ensemble.

Music

You are responsible for your jazz ensemble music and music folder. If you lose these items, you will be charged for replacement. Sometimes, publishers will not sell replacement parts individually. Therefore the entire piece must be purchased. Your folder may contain as many as ten pieces and with music arrangements selling for approximately \$45.00 each, a lost folder could cost you \$450.00. So take care of your music and do not lose it!

Disabilities Act:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services 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 me and provide certification from the Disability Services (Office of Special Students Services). The Office of Special Students Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, phone 460-7212.

Changes in Course Requirements

Students will be given adequate notification in writing prior to any changes in course requirements and/or expectations.