

Jazz Ensemble
MUSC 2730
Dr. Geyer

Fall 2017
12:30–11:55 TR
Humanities 331

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Course Description: The study and performance of literature composed for jazz ensembles from original, transcribed, contemporary, and diverse cultural sources. Includes on-campus and sometimes off-campus performances. Open by audition to music-major and non-music-major students. This syllabus pertains to first- and second-year students; see MUSC 4730 for third- and fourth-year students.

Learning Outcomes: The student will demonstrate at the lower-division level:

1. the ability to perform jazz in a variety of styles in a large jazz ensemble.
2. knowledge of the various styles of large jazz ensemble music.
3. knowledge of the role of jazz improvisation in the various styles of large jazz ensemble music.
4. the ability to perform jazz in a public concert setting.

Course Details

Assignments: Weekly assignments including learning parts, singing, tapping rhythms, fundamentals, and improvisation exercises will be averaged for 30% of your semester grade. You will be assessed at random when exercises are due; in other words, you must always be prepared, but not everyone will be heard on each day; this will give us more rehearsal time.

Concerts: Concerts will make up 35% of your semester grade. You'll be graded on the totality of your professionalism, including punctuality, dress, preparation, and attitude. We have one concert scheduled for November 10 at the Townsend Center, but we may have one additional concert.

Recording: We will be recording the ensemble in the class meetings following the concert. This will serve three purposes: giving you recording experience, giving you an opportunity to hear yourself in context, and promoting the band. The concert will be worth 35% of your semester grade.

Semester Grade Weighting: 30% assignments; 35% concerts; 35% recording.

Grading: Assignments, concerts, and the recording will be graded on the following rubric, measuring your command over the material and commitment to the experience:

- 100%: complete command and commitment
- 90%: “almost there” except for a minor problem
- 80%: Satisfactory
- 67%: Struggling
- 0%: Incomplete or unsatisfactory

Semester Grades:

90–100%: A 80–89%: B 70–79%: C 60–69%: D 59% and under: F

Common Language for UWG Syllabi: <https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

Schedule

Date	Week	Important Dates
10-Aug	1	
15-Aug	2	
17-Aug		
22-Aug	3	
24-Aug		
29-Aug	4	
31-Aug		
5-Sep	5	
7-Sep		
12-Sep	6	
14-Sep		
19-Sep	7	
21-Sep		
26-Sep	8	
28-Sep		
3-Oct	9	
5-Oct		FALL BREAK - NO REHEARSAL
10-Oct	10	
12-Oct		
17-Oct	11	
19-Oct		
24-Oct	12	
26-Oct		
31-Oct	13	
2-Nov		SECTIONALS - Society for Music Theory
7-Nov	14	
9-Nov		DRESS REHEARSAL - TOWNSEND
10-Nov	FALL CONCERT IN TOWNSEND!!	
14-Nov	15	In-Class recording
16-Nov		In-Class recording
21-Nov	16	
23-Nov		THANKSGIVING - NO REHEARSAL
28-Nov	17	Individual Meetings
30-Nov		individual Meetings

Addendum to the Syllabus
Jazz Ensemble, Fall 2017
Dr. Geyer

This attendance policy will go into effect on Thursday, August 24.

Attendance: You must be present and punctual for at all scheduled Jazz Ensembles meetings, rehearsals, concerts, and other events. Any unexcused absences without an adequate substitution solution will result in a ten-point deduction from your final grade for two absences. Two tardies will equal one absence; anyone who isn't set up with their instrument and music at 12:30 will be counted as tardy, and two tardies will count as an absence.

Protocol for Missed Rehearsal: If you do need to be absent, follow these policies:

1. Arrange for a qualified substitute to cover all of your parts, and make sure that the substitute has all materials and skills necessary; your sub should be *more qualified than you* to play in the ensemble.
2. Find out from a peer what music we rehearsed, and submit a recording of your parts for those sections. Record yourself on your phone and send to the instructor via email or Google Drive.

Excused Absences: For *illness or other emergencies*, the absence will be excused if (1) you provide a substitute *and* you provide a note from the health center or a doctor. For *non-emergency absences*, please contact the instructor at least two weeks ahead of the rehearsal in question; non-emergency absences may or may not be excused, at the discretion of the instructor.

Performances and Recordings: A missed performance or recording can result in a failing grade. Tardiness for a performance can result in the loss of 10% from your final grade.