Jazz Ensemble
MUSC-2730
Spring 2020  Section 01  1 Credits  01/04/2020 to 05/05/2020  Modified 01/03/2020

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. Prerequisite: Technical Proficiency or successful audition

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Ben Geyer

Email: bgeyer@westga.edu
Office: HUM 334

Office Hours

Email for Appointment
HUM 334

For any class business, please email me to schedule an appointment. We will meet at the earliest mutually available time.

Meeting Times

Tuesday, Thursday, 12:30 PM to 1:45 AM

No class January 23 for GMEA, March 16-20 for Spring Break, and April 7 for Scholars' Day

Materials

Outcomes

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.

Evaluation

Criteria
Course Details

This semester will involve one major engagement outside of class time - the Sunbelt Jazz Festival. The festival will be located at the AMP on Saturday, April 18, with music from 6-11 p.m. I will need volunteers from the band and from the music fraternities to help load and set up (3:30-5:00), as well as to break down and unload (11:00-midnight). Please sign up for at least one of these shifts. The full band will report for a sound check at 4:45 p.m., the music starts at 6:00, call time for our set is 7:10, and we play at 8:20.

You should be present for every scheduled class meeting up to the end of the semester (April 27).

Grading

Professionalism. For all major events and all rehearsals, I expect you to exhibit total professionalism according to these criteria:

1. Present
2. Punctual
3. Appropriate clothing for performance
4. Musically prepared (music learned, warmed up)
5. Focused on bringing your best performance
6. Physically prepared (proper equipment including mutes, parts, cables, etc.)
7. Care for equipment: using only what is assigned and putting it away after class, including music folders
8. Looking for ways to help
9. Staying to help until all equipment is put away (if scheduling permits)
10. Positive attitude

Grade Deductions. In a professional performing environment, failures to meet these professional standards may lead to damaged reputation or even loss of income if you are not re-hired by a bandleader. Because this is an educational setting, these types of errors will instead result in a deduction in grade. The deduction for a single error can range from 1 point to 41 points (in the case of a missed concert). Tardiness will have a minimum deduction of one point, and absence will have a minimum deduction of two points. Missing a concert or recording session is unacceptable and will result in major point deductions (except for serious and documented emergencies). Decisions on grade deductions will be determined by the instructor, with consideration of these contextual factors:

1. How serious was the error
2. Do you have a history of comparable errors
3. How important was the event
4. What is your standing in the music department (first-year non-major vs. senior jazz emphasis)
5. To what degree have you let down the ensemble (have you prevented us from rehearsing, performing, or recording effectively?)
6. Is there an excusable reason for the error
7. Did you make a reasonable effort to fix or cover for the error, such as finding a fully qualified and prepared sub
8. Did you notify the appropriate band members immediately, and did they have enough time to cover for you

Appeal. I will determine a grade deduction as soon as possible after an error and notify you via Course Den. For significant deductions, I will provide an explanation of the decision. If you believe that a deduction amount is unfounded, you may appeal it in writing, via a message in Course Den. Appeals must argue clearly and concisely for a lesser deduction, referring directly to the contextual factors, and they must suggest a specific alternative number of points for deduction. I will consider appeals seriously on the merits of your argument, and I will respond with an explanation of my final decision. You may only appeal each deduction one time, so be sure to argue clearly and concisely.

Breakdown

Final Grade Calculation. Your final semester grade will be calculated according to the following scale based on any deductions you have received.

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

Assignments

Schedule

Course Policies and Resources

Policies

- For each credit of lessons, you are expected to practice one hour per day, every day of the week. It is wise to break up your practicing into multiple sessions per day (two thirty-minute sessions or three twenty-minute sessions). You will keep a record of your practice times in your practice journal.
- The practice journal should be laid out neatly and clearly. You must stick to the goals laid out in your previous lesson's Google Drive document. If your week of practice changes direction, please do follow this direction organically. However, you a change to your goals must be reported via email. Your assessment may only incorporate these revised weekly goals for the proportion of the practice week occurring after the revision has been filed.
- Our work during lessons depends on your preparation. If you have not prepared enough for us to work productively, you will be asked to spend the remaining lesson time practicing individual. This will earn a grade of zero. If you are missing required materials, your grade will be reduced according to the impact of the missing materials on our in-lesson work.
- Except for university sanctioned absences, missed lessons will be averaged in as a zero. I will do my best to reschedule lessons if you give me twenty-four hours' notice or if your absence is excused. If I need to miss a lesson, I am responsible to make it up.
- If you miss four lessons, you will automatically earn an F for the semester.

Resources

Information on Wellness: https://www.westga.edu/music/wellness/

Institutional Policies

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the UWG Online (https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the Online/Off-Campus Student Guide (http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the UWG Cares (http://www.westga.edu/UWGCaress/) site. Online counseling (https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs
to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services (https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The Center for Academic Success (http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the Student Handbook (https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php (https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php)
Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the Counseling Center. Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in Health Services. To report a concern anonymously, please go to UWGcares.