

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office hours: email for flexible appointments

Required Materials: Manuscript paper, mechanical pencils, other materials as assigned

Course Description: Lessons in composition and scoring techniques for jazz combos and big bands. Students complete assignments by using traditional methods and by using the tools of music technology. All courses are repeatable for one or two hours of credit--one 25-minute lesson per week per credit hour.

Learning Outcomes: The student will demonstrate the following outcomes:

1. The ability to write jazz compositions from three horn parts, up to the large jazz ensemble (5 saxes, 4 or 5 trumpets, 4 or 5 trombones and rhythm section) in a variety of jazz styles.
2. The ability to compose and develop jazz melodic material in a variety of jazz styles.
3. The ability to manipulate jazz harmonic concepts in a variety of jazz styles.
4. The ability to compose background material to jazz melodic material in a variety of jazz styles.
5. An understanding of the various kinds of jazz articulation, phrasing, and special effects.
6. The ability to develop jazz formal patterns in a variety of jazz styles.
7. Knowledge of the various technological resources available to the jazz composer/arranger.
8. An understanding of the role improvisation performs in jazz composition in a variety of jazz styles.

Common Language for UWG Syllabi: <https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>
Information on Wellness: <https://www.westga.edu/music/wellness/>

Course Details

A lesson will be held each week of the semester except on official university holidays. Lesson assignments will include either practice problems or signposts for the development, revision, and completion of compositions and arrangements. The preparation for each lesson will make up the lesson grade according to the rubric (below). The final grade for the course will be the average of the lesson grades. Please contact me if you become aware that you need to miss a lesson and I will try to reschedule. Missed lessons without prior communication will be assigned a grade of 0 (except for documented emergencies).

Grading Rubric: 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 0–59%: F