Jazz Ensemble   **Spring 2019**
MUSC 4730   12:30–1:45 TR
Dr. Geyer   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 students in their third year or later; see MUSC 2730 for first- and second-year students.

Learning Outcomes: The student will demonstrate at the 4000 (upper-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

This semester will include one major event outside of class time: the Sunbelt Jazz Festival, on Saturday April 13 at the Carrollton AMP. Please be available for setup, sound check, and the performance starting at 3:00 p.m. We will also rehearse or record during every scheduled class meeting. We will not do an extended tour but we may have additional performances on or off campus for the entire group or some part of it, depending on availability.

At the 4000-level, you will assist me in band leadership and business duties including equipment management and event planning, booking, and marketing.

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. Dressed correctly
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. Looking for ways to help
8. Staying to help until all equipment is put away (if scheduling permits)
9. Positive attitude

Grade Deductions. In a professional performing environment, failures to meet these professional standards may lead to loss in income from being fired from a recurring gig, not re-hired, or damaged

reputation that undermines bandleaders' confidence in you. 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 (an automatic course fail). Decisions on grade deductions will be weighed 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 band (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. 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 email. Appeals must argue clearly and concisely for a lesser deduction, referring directly to the contextual factors, and they must suggest a specific alternative point deduction number. 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.

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/