

Jazz Ensemble
MUSC 4730
Dr. Geyer

Fall 2019
12:30–1:45 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 students in their third year or later; see MUSC 2730 for first- and second-year students.

Learning Outcomes: The student will demonstrate the following 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.

Course Details

This semester will include two major events outside of class time. First, there will be a masterclass (time TBD) with guest artist Adison Evans. Second, the Fall Concert featuring Evans will take place on Thursday, November 14 at 8:15 p.m. at the Townsend Center, with a call time of 7:45. We will rehearse or record during every scheduled class meeting up to the end of the semester.

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. 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 damages to your 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. 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 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 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.

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