

Jazz Combo
MUSC 4800 O
Dr. Geyer

Fall 2019
11:00–11:50 TR
Humanities 331

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Course Description: The study and performance of literature composed for small ensembles from traditional, original, transcribed, contemporary, and diverse cultural sources. May include on-campus and sometimes off-campus performances. Open by permission to music-major and non-music-major students.

Learning Outcomes: The student will demonstrate the following outcomes:

1. The ability to rehearse and perform a variety of musical literature in a small ensemble setting, consisting of from two to ten different parts.
2. An understanding of a variety of musical styles.
3. Knowledge about the composer, history, and style of the music performed.
4. The ability to respond to instruction and contribute positively to the performance level of the group.
5. Knowledge of and the ability to apply performance techniques appropriate to the style, composer, ensemble, and setting.
6. The ability to perform music in public.

Course Details

In this course we will build our own repertoire by completing compositions and arrangements, which we will practice, record, and perform. We will also learn a small set of arrangements by other composers. We will have two major performances outside of class time: a masterclass (time TBD) with guest artist Adison Evans, and concert of a format and time to be determined based on the input of the group. We will rehearse or record during every scheduled class meeting up to the end of the semester.

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/>