Course Description:
Designed for both music majors and non-majors, this course specializes in jazz ensemble performance in a professional setting. Students will encounter standard jazz repertoire and become familiar with stylistic traits of jazz performance and improvisation.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Experience in this class enables students to,
1) Achieve higher levels of musicality in the jazz idiom.
2) Learn professionalism for a commercial environment.
3) Expand knowledge of jazz improvisation.
4) Become familiar with standard jazz repertoire.

Text and Materials:
Course materials are supplied by the instructor.

Course Activities:
1) Rehearsal of standard repertoire.
2) Studies in improvisation, including an introduction to the basic elements of the "jazz language."
3) Rehearsal, experience and potentially performance opportunities in arranged big-band ensemble work.

Guidelines
1) Rehearsals will begin promptly at the allotted time. Students should plan to arrive a few minutes early in order to warm up and be prepared for the day’s rehearsal. All students are expected to be available for the entire duration of the designated rehearsal period. Rehearsals will end promptly at the designated time.

2) No other university class shall give just cause for absence or tardiness for rehearsals.

3) Unless obtaining prior permission from the ensemble director, students shall not be excused from class to perform in master classes, studio classes, seminars or other events scheduled in conflict with designated rehearsal times.

4) No music ensemble outside the university shall give just cause for absence or tardiness to rehearsals.

5) Acceptable reasons for absence or tardiness are limited to severe illness, family emergencies, and School of Music sponsored activities. In the event of family emergencies, the student is asked to provide a note indicating the nature of the emergency and the duration of the absence. In cases of extended or excessive instances of illness, the student shall provide a note from the university health clinic or private doctor indicating the nature of the illness and length of absence. In all cases, students are requested to leave a phone message or electronic message with the ensemble director prior to, or as soon as possible after, the specified rehearsal.

6) Sections leaders will be assigned. Each section is required to rehearse once a week or as required to master individual parts.
7) Students are required to keep track of their charts in good condition and bring them to every rehearsal.

8) Students who are not enrolled are expected to follow all the guidelines as though they were enrolled and conduct themselves as though this is a professional gig.

*Be on time! Play in tune! Do your best for your fellow band members and for the music!*

**Grading:**

Grading is based on group attendance, sectional attendance, and willingness to improve the ensemble.

**Attendance:**

Since every class is essential, attendance is necessary for success. If you must miss class due to an illness or emergency, please call me, or leave a message on my voice mail prior to class. **After 2 absences**, each **unexcused absence** will drop your final grade one letter grade.

**** After 4 absences, your grade will be an automatic F. ****

This is a music department policy. 

Tardiness will count as ½ an absence. Leaving early will count as ¼ an absence.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeals:** Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

** Disabilities Accommodations:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.