CONCERT BAND
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2015

Department: Music
Course Number: MUEN 1122-001
Title: Concert Band
Class Period: MW 5:00 – 6:15
Instructors: Brian Shelton
Credit Hour: 1

Room#: CA 124
Office#: CA 127
Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:30
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I. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Concert Band is designed to teach students the basics of musicianship and ensemble performance. Its repertoire includes contemporary and classic works composed for the wind band as well as marches and transcriptions, designed to both entertain and enlighten the students and the audience. Ensemble members gain valuable experiences that enable them to foster their professional goals. Concert Band performs one on-campus concert during the fall semester. Additional performances will be announced as far in advance as possible. Concert Band is open to all students.

II. REQUIRED MATERIALS
Students must have the following materials at every rehearsal:
1. Instrument(s)
2. Assigned music
3. Accessories (mutes, mallets, etc.)
4. Pencil

Rehearsal schedules are posted at the beginning of the week. All students should acquaint themselves with the schedule to be prepared for each day. Failure to have all required materials at rehearsal may result in dismissal for the day and loss of letter grade. Rehearsal schedules will be posted on the band board and in Blackboard at the beginning of each week. Review the schedule so you are optimally prepared for every rehearsal. Rehearsal assessments will also be posted on Blackboard so you will know what areas need the most work. All music and folders are the property of Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi. Any damage or loss is the financial responsibility of the student. Transcript and registration holds will be placed on student accounts until all university materials and equipment are replaced or returned.

III. PERFORMANCE CALENDAR
Monday, April 18 7:30 p.m. Spring Concert

IV. GRADING POLICY
Grading: Each student will begin the semester with the grade of A. It is possible for that grade to be lowered for the following reasons:

1. **Unexcused Rehearsal Absence.** Each unexcused rehearsal absence will result in the lowering of the grade by one letter. An absence is defined as arriving to rehearsal more than 30 minutes past the start of the scheduled class time.
   - 0 Absences A
   - 1 Absence B
   - 2 Absences C
   - 3 Absences D
   - 4 Absences F

2. **Excused Absence.** Members will only be excused if: 1. an official Absence Request Form is submitted at least 24 hours prior to the date of the absence; and 2. a competent substitute is sent for the missed
rehearsal. Failure to provide a substitute may result in an unexcused absence. The ONLY excused absences are for the following:
1. Personal Illness: Requires a written doctor's excuse required.
2. Death/funeral/major surgery/family emergency in the immediate family, with every effort made to contact the instructors in advance.

While it is sometimes necessary to miss a rehearsal due to an emergency, Symphonic Winds is a performance-oriented class, and grades are based primarily on your participation. Excessive absences by any member – even excused – diminishes the quality of the ensemble and may result in the lowering of the letter grade and/or removal from the group. Every member of the ensemble plays an important role in the success of the band, and you must use your best judgment regarding your attendance.

3. **Performance Absence.** One unexcused performance absence will result in an automatic failing semester grade and removal from the ensemble.

4. **Late Arrival to Rehearsal.** Two unexcused tardies to rehearsal (entering rehearsal more than one minute after the official start time) are equivalent to one unexcused absence. Students should arrive at rehearsal warmed up and ready to perform, or early enough to be able to do so their own. Rehearsal warm-ups are designed to establish ensemble sound and intonation **NOT** to warm up each individual.

In order to be excused from a rehearsal, or in cases where you need to arrive late or leave early, a student must fill out an **Absence Request Form** found on the ensemble webpage clatamucc.edu/music/pages/ensembles.html. The form must be received at least 24 hours prior to the request date and should be submitted as far in advance as possible. In cases of emergency, when you may not be able to get to a computer, the form must be submitted within 48 hours of the absence. Work – including with local high school bands – is not excusable. **Requesting an absence does not guarantee approval. Verbal requests are not accepted.**

5. **Participation**
Positive participation is expected of all members. Students who talk during instruction, arrive at rehearsal unprepared, and act rudely detract from the positive atmosphere necessary of effective learning. Disruptive students exhibiting these or similar behaviors may be dismissed from rehearsal and will receive an unexcused absence for that day.

6. **Cell Phone Policy**
Concert Band has a zero tolerance policy regarding cell phone use during class. If you are caught using your phone for any reason during rehearsal, you will be sent out of rehearsal and immediately removed from the ensemble. If there is an emergency and you must use your phone, excuse yourself from the room to do so. Someone who is found to be leaving the room more often than is acceptable by the director will receive one verbal or written warning. Further such activity will result in removal from the ensemble.

V. **CONCERT ETIQUETTE AND DRESS CODE**
Concerts are important events as they represent the culmination of much hard work by many different people. It is important that members of the ensemble respect these performances through their behavior on the stage or in the audience. The expectations for band members are:

1. There will be a minimum of talking between pieces. There will be no talking and little motion between parts of a multi-movement work.
2. After a piece has ended, look to the podium for instruction. Do not touch your music or start working on your instrument. As the audience has listened to the band attentively, so we will acknowledge their applause.
3. Stay engaged during performance. Do not look around the stage or allow your mind to wander. Listen to the music around you when you are not playing because **you are always performing.**
4. Assume there is always someone important watching you. Act accordingly.
**Dress Code**
The dress code policy is designed so all players look professional and uniform. It is expected that **all members** will adhere to the code. Those found in violation of the code will be dismissed from the concert and be subject to the consequences as outlined in the syllabus.

**Men**
Black tuxedo (or matching black jacket and pants)
White button down shirt
Black bow tie

**Women**
Black outfit with the following parameters:
- Black pants: must be full length, to the top of the shoes. No stretch or pajama pants.
- Black shirt: Full neckline, arms covered to the wrist
  - No plunging necklines
  - No exposed shoulders, arms or back
- If you wear a black jacket, you may wear a white shirt underneath. No print shirts of any kind.
- If you wish to wear a DRESS:
  - Must be full length (to the top of the shoes)
  - Must cover the arms to the wrists
  - Skirts must go to the tops of the shoes; short skirts are not allowed.

**Everyone**
**Shoes**
- Black, close-toed dress shoes
  - No tennis shoes or sandals
- Black dress socks, at least calf height
  - Women may wear black tights

No perfume/cologne or strong lotions
No bright and/or dangling jewelry

**VI. UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**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.

**Academic Integrity/ Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which ideas and research cannot be safely communicated. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations and examination materials, falsification, forgery, or complicity. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the university rules at the above website. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student’s submitted work must be his/her own. It is expected that all course assignments will consist of work done specifically for this course. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure of the class.

**Dropping a Class**
Events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or advisable. Consult with the instructor
before deciding to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should withdrawing from the class be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a "Course Drop" form. Stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 10 is the last day of this term you can drop a class and receive an automatic grade of a "W".

**Classroom Behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Statement of Civilit**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnicity/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**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 Disability Services at (361) 825-5816, or visit their office 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.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood Room 203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane, and classes can not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, this course will continue through the use of Blackboard as much as possible. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and secondary means of contacting them.