Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Department of Music

Spring 2015
MUEN 1128-001 Stage Band (Jazz Band)  Mr. Robert W. Brown
Office Phone (361) 825-3648
Tues-Thursday 2:00 – 3:15pm  Office Location CA 111
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Office Hours: TBA

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. (Also bring a pencil)

8) Students must be enrolled and are expected to 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
1) Group attendance,
2) Sectional attendance,
3) 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 ½ an absence.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failed grade.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filing out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. ( ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom/professional 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 Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)

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, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
Grade Appeals

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

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 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.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. 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 a secondary means of contacting each student.