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

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.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS

Students must have the following materials at every rehearsal:

1. Instrument(s)
2. Assigned music
3. Accessories (mutes, mallets, reeds, etc.)
4. Pencil

Rehearsal schedules are posted at the beginning of the week on the band board outside of CA 127. All students should acquaint themselves with the schedule in order to be prepared for each day’s rehearsal. Failure to have all required materials may result in dismissal from the rehearsal and loss of a letter grade. All music and music 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 on student accounts until all university materials are replaced or returned.

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 performance opportunities in arranged big-band ensemble work.
GRADING POLICY

Each student begins the semester with the grade of A. It is possible for that grade to be lowered for the following reasons:

Grade Appeals: Students who feel they have 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. 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 (http://cla.tamu.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

Performance Absence. One unexcused performance absence may result in an automatic failing grade for the semester and removal from the ensemble.

Late Arrival to Rehearsal. Two unexcused tardies to rehearsals (entering rehearsal after the scheduled 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 on their own. Rehearsal warm-ups are designed to establish ensemble sound and intonation, NOT to warm up each individual player. Percussionists should arrive early enough to set-up for the first work by the beginning of the warm-up, so as to not distract.

Excused Absences. Rehearsal time is extremely valuable, and it is treated as such by the director. However, there may be a time when it is absolutely necessary to miss rehearsal. Members will only by excused if:
1. An official Absence Request Form (located in Blackboard) is submitted no less that 24 hours prior to the date and time of the absence (and as far in advance as possible); and
2. A competent substitute is sent for the missed rehearsal (when possible).

The ONLY excuses for absences are:

1. Personal Illness (requires a written and signed doctor's note) and
2. Family Emergency (death, funeral, major surgery) in the immediate family

In cases of sudden emergencies, when you may not be able to access the request form, the form must be submitted within 48 hours of the absence. Attendance disputes cannot be reconciled at the end of the semester if a request was not submitted during this timeframe. Work of any kind - including working with local high school bands - is not a valid excuse.

The Absence Request Form should also be used in instances when you know you will be late to the scheduled start of class time, or if it is necessary for you to leave early. The same policies for rehearsal absences apply for arriving late and leaving early.

Requesting an absence does not guarantee approval. Verbal requests are not accepted.

Stage Band is a performance-oriented class, and grades are based entirely on your participation. Excessive absences by any member - even if they are 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.

OTHER POLICIES

Participation

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

Students who are consistently disruptive will be removed from the ensemble.

I. CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Concerts are important events as they represent the culmination of hard work by many different people. It is important that ensemble members respect these performances through their behavior on the stage and throughout a performance. 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 work on your instrument. As the audience has sat patiently listening to your performance, so you should acknowledge their applause for your efforts.
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 that someone is always watching you. Act accordingly.

II. 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 dress code. Those found in violation of the code will be dismissed from the concert and be subject to the consequences as outlined in the Grading Policy section of the syllabus.

Men
Shirt, tie, dress pants, dress socks, dress shoes

Women:
Dress clothes with the following parameters:

• Pants: must be full-length, to the top of the shoes. No stretch pants, leggings, pajama pants or jeans.

• Shirt: full neckline, arms covered to the wrist (no plunging necklines, spandex, sheer fabric, or exposed shoulders, arms and/or back)

• If you wear a jacket, you may wear a shirt underneath. No print shirts of any kind are allowed.
• If you wish to wear a DRESS or SKIRT, it must be full length, touching the top of your shoes and cover arms to the wrist.

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

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

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 Appeal Process: As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, 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 Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and 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.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.