

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Number: MU 2561

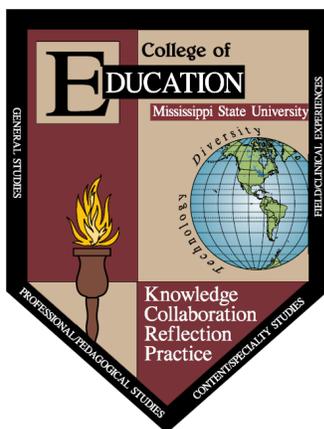
Course Title: Symphonic Band

Credit Hours: One (1) semester hour

Course Type: Laboratory

Catalog Description: (Audition required). One to five rehearsals per week. The study and performance of significant symphonic band literature. May be repeated for credit more than once. (Spring semester only).

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.
2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.
3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.
4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Objectives:

1. To expose students to a diverse sampling of wind band literature (CFPO #1, InTASC #7)

2. To increase individual performing skills to include tone production, intonation, sight reading, and understanding of musical styles. (CFPO#1, CFPO #3, InTASC #3, InTASC #4)
3. To develop musical and technical skills and enhance judgments appropriate to perform the selected literature. (InTASC #4, InTASC #6)
4. To develop a sense of responsibility in each player through prompt and effective individual preparation for each rehearsal and performance.

Topics to Be Covered: (approximate clock hours in parenthesis)

- Playing Skills (20)
 - a. Proper tone production
 - b. Rhythmic understanding, reproduction from written notation
 - c. Sight reading development
 - d. Technical facility improvement
- Aural Skills (20)
 - a. Tuning unison notes and chord progressions
 - b. Intonation and key relationships
 - c. Ensemble rhythmic precision
 - d. Ensemble balance
- Musical Awareness (20)
 - a. Enhance value judgments regarding musical phrasing
 - b. Shaping of melodic line and accompaniment
 - c. Understanding non-verbal communication within ensemble

Text:

The literature of the ensemble is the text. The music changes each semester with an attempt to create an environment where new music is always available and expected.

Methods of Instruction:

- Instruction will be in the traditional conductor/ensemble style. CFPO #6
- Performance skill and preparation will be modeled by the director. CFPO #1
- Recordings of appropriate literature will be demonstrated.
- Guest performers will provide performance modeling during the semester.

Student Activities:

- Ensemble rehearsal (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Performance of public concerts. (Objectives 2, 3, 4)

Honor Code:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>

Electronic Media:

Cell phones, iPods, and similar devices may not be worn or used during rehearsals. These devices should be turned off or set to silent (not vibrate) and kept out of sight.

Diversity:

Students are exposed to music from a variety of cultures [Course Objective #3].

Disability:

Students with disabilities requesting academic accommodations must identify themselves to the office of Student Support Services (325-3335) and to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Refer to <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/1235.html>

Field Component:

This course contains no field component.

Evaluation/Grading:

The semester grade is based solely on attendance and participation in rehearsals and performances. The final grade will be determined as follows:

0-2 unexcused absences = A; 3 = B; 4 = C; 5 = D; 6 or more = F

An unexcused absence from a performance may result in an F for the course.

Official absences and absences for illness or emergency will be excused, but the instructor should be notified in advance, and the absence must be documented on the proper absence form in the band office. The instructor reserves the right to lower the final grade of students who exhibit excessive tardiness or who are absent from more than 10% of the scheduled class meetings (whether excused or unexcused, regular class conflicts exempted).

Attendance Requirement and Procedures:

The success of any musical ensemble is dependent upon the artistic coordination of every member. **Perfect attendance is expected.** The instructor should be notified in advance of anticipated absences. Class conflicts that will result in regular absences, late arrivals, or early departures must be approved and documented on the correct form in the band office. *Students who are regularly absent due to a weekly class conflict should have no additional absences.* Furthermore, professional behavior and courteous regard for the needs of the ensemble are expected: students who must absent themselves from a rehearsal must make sure their folder is present in rehearsal.

Rehearsals will begin and end on the hour. Students who either arrive late or leave early for any reason (including class conflicts) must sign in and out on the clipboard near the door. Failure to do so may result in the recording of an unexcused absence.

Required Concert Attire for Concerts 1 & 2:

Men: tuxedo or dark suit, white shirt, dark tie, **black** socks and black shoes

Women: *conservative* dark dress/skirt & blouse or pantsuit. Skirts must be calf or floor length.

No bare shoulders.

Bibliography:

Kreines, J. (1989). *Music for concert band: A selective annotated guide to band literature*. Tampa, FL: Florida Music Service.

Laudermilch, K. (2000). *An understandable approach to musical expression*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications.

Miles, R. (Ed). (1997-2013). *Teaching music through performance in band* (Vols. 1-9). Chicago, IL: GIA Publications.