

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Numbers: MU 2911

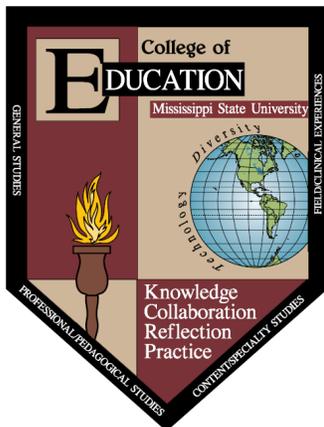
Course Title: Jazz Ensemble

Credit Hours: One (1) hour

Course Type: Laboratory

Course Description: (Audition required). One to five rehearsals per week. The study and performance of significant jazz ensemble literature. May be repeated for credit more than once.

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. The development of jazz music style and performance skills for members of the ensemble.
(CFPO #1, #3; InTASC #4, 7)
2. An introduction to jazz and blues melodies and chord progressions as vehicles for improvisation as a creative activity. (CFPO #1, 3; InTASC #3)
3. The development of jazz and blues solo performance skills for members of the ensemble.
(CFPO #1, 3; InTASC #2, 3)
4. An appreciation for traditional swing, jazz, blues, and rock styles of music with an historical approach. (CFPO #3; InTASC #4)
5. Public performance of the set repertoire for the semester at a level that demonstrates adequate preparation and satisfactory achievement of the stated performance objectives.
(CFPO #5; InTASC #4)

Topics to be Covered: (Approximate clock hours in parentheses)

- Playing Skills (10)
 - a. Proper tone production
 - b. Rhythmic understanding, reproduction from written notation
 - c. Sight reading development
 - d. Technical facility improvement
- Aural Skills (10)
 - a. Tuning unison notes and chord progressions
 - b. Intonation and key relationships
 - c. Ensemble rhythmic precision
 - d. Ensemble balance
- Musical Awareness (10)
 - a. Enhance value judgments regarding musical phrasing
 - b. Shaping of melodic line and accompaniment
 - c. Understanding non-verbal communication within ensemble

Text:

The literature performed by 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.

Suggested Student Activities:

- Ensemble rehearsal. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Performance of public concerts. (Objective 5)

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/>.

Technology:

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 will be introduced to music from a variety of cultures.

Disability:

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

Field Component:

There is no field component of this course.

Evaluation/Grading:

The semester grade is based solely on attendance and participation in rehearsals and performances: 0-2 unexcused absences = A; 3 = B; 4 = C; 5 = D; 6 or more = F
Official absences and absences for illness or emergency will be excused, but the instructor should be notified in advance. Habitually tardy students should expect their final grade to be lowered. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in an F for the course.

Attendance Requirement:

In a performance ensemble with one player on each part, the necessity of perfect attendance should be obvious. **Perfect attendance is the norm.** The instructor should be notified in advance of anticipated 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 and should provide a substitute musician if possible.

Care of Music:

With few exceptions, student folders contain the one and only original copy of a part. Students may write on music only in pencil and should safeguard parts against damage or loss. Students must assume responsibility for the replacement of any lost parts.

Bibliography:

Gridley, M. (1997). *Jazz styles* (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Lawn, R. (2007). *Experiencing jazz*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Stitzel, R. (1997). *Jazz theory*. Fort Worth, TX: Rick Stitzel Music.

Vernick, G., Haydon, G., et.al. Eds. (1996). *Teaching jazz: A course of study*. Reston: VA: Music Educators National Conference.