

**AMUS 4222 202**  
**Spring 2025**  
**Midwestern State University**

**Instructor Course Information**

Instructor: Alyssa Ham  
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Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Description:** This course provides a comprehensive foundation in music, emphasizing the exploration of diverse musical styles, such as jazz and Latin American music. Students will focus on refining their technical skills while expanding their repertoire and understanding of various musical traditions.

**Course Objectives:** This course aims to introduce students to new musical styles, expanding their understanding of various genres and traditions. It will cover essential music theory concepts, helping students deepen their musical knowledge and technical skills. Emphasis will also be placed on refining music reading abilities, ensuring students can interpret complex musical notation with ease. Additionally, this course will involve score study, providing students with the opportunity to analyze and understand musical compositions in depth.

**Grading:**

A - 90-100%  
B - 80-89%  
C - 70-79%  
D - 60-69%  
F - 59% and below

Grading for this course is based on attendance and preparation for lessons.

**Three** unexcused absences will result in a deduction of the final grade by ten points.

**Five** or more unexcused absences will result in a final letter grade no higher than a "C."

Absences due to illness or participation in a university event can be excused.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust assignments as the course progresses.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones may be used in this class only in ways that will benefit the students' musical learning, such as a metronome application. Students should not rely on his/her/their cell phone to read music, as the small screen makes music reading more difficult. Cell phones should be set to silent mode and must not distract from the learning environment.

**Special Needs:** If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible

**D2L and Privacy:** The syllabus and handouts will be available through Midwestern State University's D2L system. Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed written consent of the student.

**Social Justice:** Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a safe place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that all students consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Campus Carry:** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with the state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Texas Campus Carry Rules.