

Midwestern State University

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

MUSC 3941 - University Jazz Ensemble

An instrumental ensemble representing students from all colleges on campus. Students will participate in a fall and spring concert, and other performances as needed.

Mission Statement for the Midwestern State University Music Program

The mission of the Department of Music at Midwestern State University is to provide a comprehensive music curriculum and a wide range of performance opportunities which will equip students for a variety of music careers while enabling them also to become well-rounded persons through involvement in diverse liberal arts courses. The Department of Music endeavors to help students develop aesthetic sensibility, cultural awareness, and social responsibility. Not only are students taught to create within their disciplines, they are challenged to evaluate the quality of what they have created. Central to the mission is to empower students to use their talents to enrich and advance society. The Department of Music also serves as a catalyst between the university and the community in promoting artistic activities.

Days of Week and Times Meeting

Location

Instructor: Ed Hefti
Office:
Office Hours: as posted or by appointment
Email:
Phone: (940) 704-3029

I. Learning Objectives:

- 1) Develop excellent performance skills in a diverse range of styles and cultures found within the jazz lineage. These styles include, but are not limited to: swing, ballad, Bossa Nova, Samba, funk, and fusion. Skills developed in this course include technique, expression, sight-reading, and ensemble performance.
- 2) Develop improvisational skills, utilizing language from historical jazz soloists.

II. Activities, Requirements, and Assignments:

- 1) Students are expected to learn music accurately in a timely manner (1-2 weeks) after the selection is introduced to the ensemble.
- 2) Students are expected to perform assigned literature in an artistic manner at the highest level as dictated by their individual abilities.

- 3) Students will purchase appropriate performing apparel. Men will wear dress slacks, collared dress shirt, coat, and tie. Women will wear appropriate black formal attire, such as a modest dress or slacks and modest blouse.
- 4) Students will attend and participate in all performances and special rehearsals or make appropriate arrangements by contacting the director as soon as a conflict arises. Students who miss a performance or any portion of a performance may have their grade affected by non-participation.
- 5) Students will need to have their music folder and a pencil at all rehearsals and/or performances or make appropriate arrangements by contacting the director as soon as possible. This folder is to be returned at the end of the semester.
- 6) Two tardies to rehearsal equals an absence. A student is considered tardy when he/she misses the initial tuning of the ensemble.

III. Evaluation: Grades will be assigned using the following criteria:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grades:</u>
Daily class participation:	50%	90-100% = A
Daily preparation of literature:	20%	80-89.9% = B
<u>Performance of literature:</u>	<u>20%</u>	70-79.9% = C
<u>Jazz Artist Project</u>	<u>10%</u>	60-69.9% = D
Total:	100%	0-59.9% = F

IV. Attendance: In addition to the evaluation above, grades will be adjusted according to the following:

- 2 absences = one letter-grade reduction
- 3 absences = two letter-grade reduction
- 4 absences = three letter-grade reduction
- 5+ absences = four letter-grade reduction

Inadequate Attendance:

If, during the course of the semester, a student's class average falls below a passing grade due to inadequate attendance, the course instructor may recommend the assignment of a "W" prior to the last date for an automatic withdrawal if this option is placed in the course syllabus and attendance standards are clearly stated. If a student has not attended class for a sufficient period such that thirty percent of the evaluative material for the course has been missed and the drop/add period has expired, then the faculty member may recommend Administrative Withdrawal through the department chair and dean. The faculty member must clearly indicate the date of last attendance on the request. Before such action is taken, the student will be notified. Any student appeal must occur at that time. The student will be given a reasonable time to respond, after which time the recommendation for administrative withdrawal will be sent to the designee, for approval.

V. **Event Schedule:** All performances are mandatory and posted. Performers will be given a minimum two-week notice of performances. Unless otherwise noted, dress is coat and tie for men and black formal for ladies.

VI. **Presentations on Jazz Topics**

Please prepare a 3-5 minute handwritten paper on your assigned jazz topic. For example, if presenting on a jazz artist, include a brief biography, career highlights (famous albums, concerts, notable artistic collaborators), defining musical traits, and present a brief audio or video clip (1-2 minutes) of your favorite performance by the artist.