

Course: MUSC 1941, 2941, 3941, 4941: University Jazz Ensemble
Schedule: MWF 12:00-12:50
Location: Fain Instrumental Music Building, FM105
Instructor: Dr. Geraci
Email: paul.geraci@msutexas.edu **Office Phone:** 940.397.6839
Office: Fain Fine Arts Building C117O
Hours: As posted and by appointment. Meetings may be virtual.

Concert Dates:

February 3rd Thursday - JS Bridwell Agricultural Center, 5pm – 8pm
April 7th Thursday - Akin Auditorium, 7:30pm

Materials: Each member is issued his/her own folder and music. Care should be taken to keep the music in good condition. It must be returned free of all rehearsal markings. Lost music is subject to fines up to the total replacement cost of the set.

Course Description: Jazz Ensemble is open to all students by audition and presents concerts throughout the semester. Repertoire includes standard and new literature for big bands, chamber jazz, combos, and rhythm sections. This ensemble is considered to be of the highest quality and standard at Midwestern State University.

Objectives:

1. The student will be able to distinguish the jazz style from concert stylings.
2. The student will be exposed to a variety of jazz genres.
3. The student will be exposed to basic improvisation.
4. To increase the level of sight reading.
5. Student will develop performance skills.
6. The student will be exposed to jazz literature

Evaluation:

1. The student is expected to be at every rehearsal and performance on time.
2. The student is expected to come to each rehearsal prepared. -The student should not come to rehearsal to learn their part, they should come to learn everyone else's part.
3. If the above are not followed a reduction in grade may occur.
4. An unauthorized absence at a performance may result in a failing grade.

Attendance:

1. Attendance at every assigned rehearsal is expected.
2. Students should arrive early to assemble equipment and then be prepared to play once the clock strikes the assigned rehearsal time.
3. Any unauthorized absence may result in a 10 point grade penalty.
4. The student will be on time for class. Tardiness may affect grades,
5. The professor must approve any excused absence at least 48 hours in advance of the rehearsal, or the student must provide official documentation of illness or family emergency for an absence to be classified as "excused."

6. Any student who is absent from a performance or dress rehearsal may be immediately removed from the ensemble and receive an “F” for their final grade.

Grading scale for the class will be:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59 and below = F

Classroom etiquette: Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner. Disruptions will not be tolerated and are grounds for disciplinary action. Students will refrain from consuming food and beverages (except water) during class. Students may not record, photograph, or video lectures without written permission of the instructor, unless they have been granted an accommodation, which must be presented to the instructor beforehand. In all cases, posting or publishing of such material is prohibited and is grounds for immediate dismissal from the class. Cellular phone usage will not be permitted during class time. Cellular phones should be kept silent and out of view. Failure to comply with this will result in a grade reduction or an “F” for the course. Laptop computers, tablets, ipads, or any other electronic devices are also not permitted.

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment which provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. In accordance with state and federal law, MSU provides academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center (phone 940-397-4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

COVID-19 Concerns: Because this term takes place in the midst of a global pandemic, all university procedures must be strictly followed. In addition, some special classroom procedures must be observed as well; this includes the wearing of face masks and maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others. Additional precautions such as cleaning procedures, bell covers/bags, and receptacles for water keys, must also be adhered to. If you believe that you are ill or have had close contact with a positive COVID-19 person, stay home and contact the instructor.

Graduation: One of the primary responsibilities of the Department of Music is performance at service events at the end of fall and spring academic semesters. Any student that meets at least one (1) of the following criteria is required to participate in graduation ceremonies. This includes: music majors, students on a music scholarship, all registered members of ensembles, all registered members of Recital Attendance.

Graduation events include morning rehearsal Friday morning before the event, the Mustang Walk for all graduating seniors Friday afternoon, as well as graduation ceremonies beginning at 10:00 AM on the final Saturday of the semester.

Special Needs: If a student has any particular special needs, they should inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

- The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments in the syllabus if needed.