

## ***Course Requirements for University Jazz Ensemble (MUSC 1941)***

***MWF 12:00-12:50pm***

***Fain Instrumental Music Building, FM 105***

***Instructor: Dr. Sarah Dunbar***

Midwestern State University, Fain Fine Arts Center #C117M

sarah.dunbar@msutexas.edu | 940.397.4294 (Office)

Office Hours Posted and by Appointment

### **Spring 2023 Concert Dates.**

1. Thursday, April 20, 2023  
Time. 7:30pm (6:30pm call time)  
Location. Akin Auditorium

**Course Description.** An instrumental ensemble representing students from all colleges on campus. The band tours each year and performs for local high school assemblies and civic club programs. Membership is by audition (fall and spring semesters).

**Materials.** Each member is issued their 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 Goals and Objectives.** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to distinguish the jazz style from concert stylings
2. Be exposed to a variety of jazz genres
3. Be exposed to basic improvisation
4. Increase their level of sight reading
5. Develop performance skills
6. Be exposed to jazz literature

### **Attendance Policies.**

1. Attendance at every assigned rehearsal is expected
2. Students should arrive early to assemble equipment and be prepared to play at the start of the rehearsal
3. The professor must be notified in advance of any anticipated absence. Official documentation is required for an absence to be classified as excused.
4. Unexcused absences will lower a student's grade and may result in removal from the ensemble
5. 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.**

A - 100-90%

B - 89-80%

C - 79-70%

D - 69-60%

F - 59-0%

**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 rehearsals without written permission of the instructor. In all cases, posting or publishing of such material is prohibited and is grounds for immediate dismissal from the class. Technical devices such as cell phones, laptop computers, tablets or iPads are not permitted in class, unless being used for a specific, music related purpose. Failure to comply with this may result in a grade reduction or an "F" for the course.

**Concert Attire.** Students are required to dress in "concert black" for all performance. This includes black dress pants/slacks, a black long-sleeve dress shirt/top, black socks, and black dress shoes. No jeans (even if they're black), short skirts/dresses, open-toed shoes, short-sleeve tops, tank-tops, crop tops, low-cut tops, or sneakers. Solid black dresses and skirts are permitted if knee-length or longer. Arms must be covered to the elbows. Look professional. You are representing the university.

**Academic Dishonesty.** The student is responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or submitting for credit work done by another person. The instructor will apply the appropriate disciplinary action at his discretion, which may include receiving a zero on the assignment, being dropped from the course with an F, and/or recommending further sanctions. Familiarize yourself with the Student Honor Creed adopted by the MSU Student Government, which opens with the following statement: "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so."

**Conduct.** The instructor expects students to behave professionally and to devote class time to class work. Instances of disruption and inattention may result in a reduction of the in-class work component of the student's grade or being asked to leave. Removal from the classroom will count as an unexcused absence.

**Students with Disabilities.** 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 (940.397.4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

**Managing Stress.** Students may experience challenging situations that could interfere with learning and interpersonal functioning including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and/or other drug use, concern for a friend or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless, or relationship problems. MSU provides the following resources to students, and you do not have to wait until your situation is a crisis before accessing them:

- MSU Counseling Center (940.397.4618)
- Vinson Health Center (940.397.4231)
- Redwine Student Wellness Center (940.397.4206)

Further, additional resources may be available through MSU to address concerns of difficulty affording adequate food or housing and similar issues. I may be able to connect you to such resources, and anything along those lines that you choose to share with me will remain fully confidential.

In case of an emergency, contact the MSU Police Department (940.397.4239) or dial 911. If you or someone you know faces a sexual assault or domestic violence situation, call the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (1.800.621.8504) for guidance or information.

**Privacy.** Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases, I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

**Social Justice.** Social justice is one of MSU's stated core values, and our classroom is a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The instructor expects that all students be able to 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 state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

**The instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus for any reason. The student will receive sufficient notice of any changes. By remaining enrolled in this course, the student indicates acceptance and understanding of the syllabus.**