



Arts and Communication Division

Course Outline

MUS119, MUS120, MUS219, MUS220
Course Number

Jazz Band I, II, III, IV
Course title

2
Credits

3
Lecture

0
Laboratory Hours

16 weeks
Length of semester

Catalog Description

An opportunity to explore classic jazz literature through rehearsal and performance. Repertoire will be selected from standards of the swing era to be-bop to contemporary funk and fusion with an emphasis on proper articulation, groove, and dynamics specific to each style.

A maximum of eight credits may be earned in Jazz Band.

Text: Music of composers and arrangers from the several periods of stage band literature.

Prerequisite: Ability to play a Jazz band instrument.

Corequisites: MUS 111, 112, 211 or 212

Coordinator: James Kelly
Ext. 3716

Latest Review: Spring 2005

A. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To teach the basic fundamentals of jazz band playing to students who have had previous instrumental music playing experience.

B. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Jazz band will offer the student with musical ability an opportunity to explore the technique of jazz ensemble playing.
2. Performance for the college and community are planned so that the student can gain practical experience of “playing” as well as having the occasion to demonstrate his or her learning.
3. A student who has completed the course sequence should have read, with minimum difficulty, a significant part of the standard jazz literature.
4. Improvisation will be explored as it relates to solo sections of musical arrangements and students having problems in this area will be helped.
5. Students with a major emphasis in music will better understand how to conduct a jazz ensemble, and it is hoped that this experience will help them to be more efficient teachers and performers in this area of music.
6. Since each student enters the class with strengths, weaknesses, and different playing levels, progress must be rated in several areas throughout the semester. Through class instruction, with individual attention, and example set by superior performance and knowledge in the following areas:
 - a. Tone
 - b. Technique
 - c. Attack
 - d. Phrasing
 - e. Intonation

C. MATERIAL COVERED

1. At the beginning of each semester, the instructor evaluates the group in terms of the five areas stated in Specific Objective #6. Since there are different skill problems and different levels of playing, depending on the personnel of the Jazz Band, the instructor selects the pieces of literature that he or she feels corresponds to strengthening the weak areas.
2. Work throughout the semester is based on improving the overall performance ability of the ensemble. Sectional rehearsals shall constitute at least one-quarter of the total semester class time. Here is where skills germane to either the brass or sax or rhythm section are discussed and practiced.

D. TESTING AND MEASURING

1. Evaluation of the progress of the ensemble and of the individual is done frequently by the instructor. Students are assigned home practicing and are checked when appropriate. Concert performances are required and serve as performance exams for the purpose of grading. Class attendance is also an integral part of each student's evaluation.
2. Students are often encouraged to listen to recordings of the types of music that they are studying. When possible, students are expected to attend presentations of notable jazz groups and artists. Guest lecturers and performers are brought into rehearsal whenever feasible.

E. BASIC TEACHING MATERIALS

1. Developing the Stage Band, Selmer
2. Periodicals published by the National Association of Jazz Educators
3. Instrumental Music for Today's Schools, Robert House
4. The Instrumentalist
5. Recordings at the Library and Music Department

NOTE: MU 120, 219, and 220 offer more advanced experience levels of the initial course Jazz Band MU 119. It is possible at any particular semester to have students in the same class from all four levels: MU119, 120, 219, and 220. It is the responsibility of the instructor to provide development and instruction on all levels.