

Music 170, 370, 570  
SMALL JAZZ GROUP Class Syllabus

Small Jazz Group Directors:

Rick Helzer, Professor of Music and Associate Director Jazz Studies

Richard Thompson, Associate Professor of Music

Class meeting times and location found in Student Handbook & Jazz Studies Bulletin Board

Music Dept. phone number is 594-6031

Objectives: The purpose of the small group format is to assist the student in developing his or her improvisational skills through rehearsals and performances.

Student Outcomes: Students will be fluent in improvising in the jazz idiom, demonstrating performance practice techniques that indicate melodic harmonic and rhythmic fluency on the repertoire selected for the semester's scheduled performances. Students will also recognize essential repertoire composed by influential musicians from the 1940s to the present period.

Performances

All Combos      Jazz Week Performances every semester\*

Combos I & II      Possible on and off campus performances during the semester\*

Attendance Policy and Performance Attire Requirements

All students in this ensemble will be held accountable to the JAZZ STUDIES PROGRAM POLICIES document regarding rehearsal and performance attendance requirements, which is on page two of this document.

*[A sub sheet with names and phone numbers will be made available]*

Grading Parameters based upon the following parameters:

*Rehearsal Attendance*

*Mastery of repertoire as represented by notated music*

*Mastery of improvisation on selected repertoire*

*Assigned Concerts\**

Students are encouraged to arrange and compose for the combos.

\*These are mandatory performances. Any student failing to perform on any of these concert dates will fail the entire course.

## JAZZ STUDIES PROGRAM POLICIES

### Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Vocal Ensemble Guitar and Jazz Combo Rehearsal Policies

Good attendance is critical to the overall musical success of all of our ensembles. Two excused absences are permitted per semester without penalty if two conditions are met. They are:

- 1) The ensemble professor must be given a 24 hour notice via voice mail or e-mail.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the group member who is going to be absent to secure an appropriate sub, who has been given the music, to cover the missed rehearsal. The name of the sub should be left with the professor via voice mail or e-mail. If the sub does not come to the rehearsal, it will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Any excused absences after the first two will carry with them a 2% penalty from the total grade per absence. Stipulations #1 and #2 must still be met, so as not to incur greater penalty.

### Penalties for Unexcused Absences

If a student misses a rehearsal and does not notify the instructor, that student will forfeit one letter grade. Three unexcused absences will be grounds for a failing grade.

### Penalties for being late to Rehearsals

A student will be considered late who is not ready to play five minutes from the official beginning of class, whether on the hour or the half hour, according to either the clock in the class room, or the instructor's watch. Each infraction will carry with it a 2% penalty from the total grade.

### Penalty for missing an Ensemble Performance

If a student does not perform on the class syllabus required performance(s), the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

### Exceptions to the Unexcused Absence Policy for Rehearsals and Performances

The only allowable exception for an unexcused absence is a verifiable medical or family emergency.

### Code of Professional Conduct

The jazz faculty expects all students to be collegial and well mannered in their interactions with their peers and directors during rehearsals and performances. Ensemble directors will expect students to have assigned repertoire well prepared for rehearsals.

### Divisional Recital Dress Code

The students who are the featured performers and their supporting musicians must dress appropriately for these performances. For men, the jazz faculty minimally requires a dress shirt (open collar or tie), dress slacks and shoes. Men may also choose to wear a dress jacket or full suit if desired. For women, dressy pantsuits or dresses, skirts and blouses are required. Tennis shoes, flip-flops, denim jeans, sweatshirts, sweat pants, shorts and bare midriffs are not acceptable.

The penalty for inappropriate performance dress will be a failing grade in the divisional recital by the faculty committee.

### Student Ensemble Performance Dress Code

Students who are members of jazz combos and jazz ensembles must dress appropriately for "Jazz Week" concerts and any off campus performances. For men, the jazz faculty minimally requires a dress shirt (open collar or tie), dress slacks and shoes. Men may also choose to wear a dress jacket or full suit if desired. For women, dressy pant suits or dresses, skirts and blouses are required. Tennis shoes, flip-flops, denim jeans, sweatshirts, sweat pants, shorts and bare midriffs are not acceptable.

The penalty for inappropriate performance dress will be a final class grade lowered two letters.

### Junior, Senior and Graduate Recital Dress Code

The students who are the featured performers and their supporting musicians must dress appropriately for these performances. For men, the jazz faculty minimally requires a dress shirt (open collar or tie), dress slacks and shoes. Men may also choose to wear a dress jacket or full suit if desired. For women, dressy pant suits or dresses, skirts and blouses are required. Tennis shoes, flip-flops, denim jeans, sweatshirts, sweat pants, shorts and bare midriffs are not acceptable.

The penalty for inappropriate performance dress will be a failing grade for the recital by the faculty recital committee.

The members of the jazz faculty are serious about these attendance policies and dress codes. They will be enforced.