

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS**

**Semester & Year:** Fall 2024

**Course number – Section – Synonym:** MUEN 1122 – 001 – 95337

**Meets (day, time, room):** Thursday, 6:25pm-9:45pm, 1445

**Course Credits & Contact Hours:** 2 credits and 1 contact hour per week

**Instructor:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Office:**

**Office hours:**

**Catalog Description & Prerequisites**

This course provides training in the styles and playing techniques necessary for Big Band performance. Ensemble playing, sight reading and improvisation are emphasized.

**Course Purposes & Instructional Methodology**

The goals of Jazz Ensemble are to reinforce jazz styles, techniques, ensemble playing, and improvisation through the rehearsal and performance of jazz literature, sight reading, and listening.

**Required Textbooks & Other Useful Materials**

ACC-supplied music, which will remain in the black folder and will not leave the Band Hall. If you need to work on parts, whether assigned or voluntary, please ask the director for copies.

- Music notation software (such as MuseScore et al.) may be helpful if transposing parts.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will have:

- Worked on blending and balancing as a member of the ensemble.
- Worked on articulation and stylistic synchronization with your section and ensemble as a whole.
- Sight-read at least 16 musical charts in different jazz styles and periods.
- Performed those charts publicly, both on campus and off.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

The Student Learning Outcomes are associated with the following Program Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a more thorough understanding of ensemble playing.
- Develop more facility at sight reading musical charts.
- Develop an awareness of a wide variety of jazz styles and repertoire.
- Develop a basic understanding of improvisation and chord changes.
- Develop an understanding of song forms and musical arrangement.

**General Education Competencies**

The General Education Competencies utilized in this course are as follows:

- *Communication Skills*. Students will develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, visual, and sung communication that is adapted to purpose, structure,

audience, and medium. They will do this through in-class exercises and performances, and reading and written assignments.

- *Critical Thinking*. Students will gather, analyze, synthesize, evaluate and apply information for the purposes of innovation, inquiry, and creative thinking and performance. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.
- *Personal Responsibility*. Students will identify and apply ethical principles and practices to decision-making by connecting choices, actions and consequences. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.
- *Teamwork*. Students will consider different points of view to work collaboratively and effectively in pursuit of a shared purpose or goal. They will do this through in-class exercises, performances, and reading and written assignments.

**Grading.** Grading is based on preparation, attendance and participation. Grade breakdown is as follows:

- 40% Weekly evaluation based on your part preparation, attention and engagement in rehearsal.
- 40% Performance participation and professionalism in public.
- 10% Participation grade includes penalties for habitual tardiness, and reflects your adherence to ACC and ensemble protocols.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

**Attendance.** Attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal or performance, please contact me in a timely fashion to receive an *excused absence*. You are allowed *two* excused absences. Each absence after two and any unexcused absence will result in the drop of a letter grade.

**Communication.** Emails and texts are answered daily during working hours, meaning 9am-5pm. If your communication comes in after this time you will receive a response the next day. Students are expected to give their professor the same courtesy and respond to all communication.

**Dropping/Withdrawing.** It is the student's responsibility to initiate all withdrawals in this course. The instructor will not withdraw students. You may withdraw, or drop from a 16-week course with a grade of W any time on or before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> week in the fall or spring 16-week session. Shorter semesters have prorated drop dates. If you drop a course before its census date, or official reporting date, the course is deleted from your enrollment, does not earn any grade, and does not appear on your transcript. If you drop a course after the census date, a grade will be included on your transcript. Reporting dates vary, so you are strongly encouraged to consult your instructor, the course syllabus, or the Austin Community College website for the drop and withdrawal dates for your course. *If your first college enrollment occurred in the fall of 2001 or later, you may not drop more than 6 courses during your cumulative enrollment at any Texas public college or university.*

For more information on the withdrawal process you can check this page: <https://catalog.austincc.edu/support-services-and-student-progress/student-progress/dropping-withdrawing-from-courses/>

**Missed Rehearsals/Performances.** Any unexcused absence or excused absence after 2 will result in the drop of a letter grade.




**Incomplete Grade.** If a student is unable to complete the course at the end of the semester due to an emergency or other unanticipated circumstance, an incomplete grade for the semester will be considered. A new completion date will be given to the student, but it may not be later than the final withdrawal date in the subsequent semester. When the student completes the required work by the deadline, I will submit a form to change the student's grade from an incomplete to the earned grade. If an incomplete is not resolved by the deadline, the grade will automatically convert to an F.

## SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES

**Omar Thomas Concert with NME: Tuesday, October 15, 7:00pm; Recital Hall**

**Concert with Jazz Choir: Thursday, October 24, 7:00pm; Recital Hall**

**Semester Concert: Thursday, November 22, 7:00pm; Recital Hall**

COURSE POLICIES IN-DEPTH	
	<b>GRADING POLICY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grades will be discussed regularly with the student during the course of the semester.</li><li>• Dismissal from a rehearsal due to lack of preparation will result in an “unexcused absence” earned for that particular rehearsal.</li><li>• Please be aware that the grade of “A” is difficult to achieve and will reflect the grading standards of the college.</li></ul>
	<b>REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ensemble repertoire will be chosen to provide you the opportunity to improve your reading skills, your section/ensemble skills, and to introduce you to improvisation and chord charts.</li></ul>
	<b>WEEKLY REHEARSAL PROGRESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will be graded on a weekly basis regarding your progress and completion of assignments, including transpositions.</li><li>• At the end of the semester, these weekly grades will be averaged together to give students their weekly grades.</li><li>• <b>It should be noted that I put a heavy emphasis on weekly effort over that of one performance.</b> Although I value both it is my belief that students that exhibit consistent progress and a healthy work ethic throughout the semester will be rewarded with a successful grade.</li></ul>

