

East Texas A&M University
Jazz Ensemble I
MUS 300-001
Spring 2025 Course Orientation

Jack Courtright, director
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Office Hours: By appointment

Meeting Time: T, TH 2:00-3:20 PM
Location: Band Hall

Course Description

This ensemble will provide students with the opportunity to play jazz and jazz-adjacent styles in a big band setting. Students will have sole responsibility for their part (i.e. Trumpet 1, Baritone Sax, etc.) and learn to demonstrate appropriate playing style on their instrument. When applicable, students will also have the opportunity to develop improvisational skills within the context of the big band. Students will learn jazz pedagogy through rehearsal participation and exposure to a variety of jazz repertoire.

Course Content and Student Learning Objectives

- The student will learn, rehearse and perform jazz big band repertoire.
- The student will learn to demonstrate correct intonation, articulation, rhythmic feel and blend.
- The student will develop section playing skills including sight-reading, error identification, rehearsal technique and communication.
- When applicable, the student will develop their improvisation skills in order to play appropriate improvised solos.
- The student will develop their listening skills through access to relevant primary source jazz recordings.

GRADES:

Your final grade will be determined by:

(60%) Music Preparation: Obvious detailed preparation of music (prior to rehearsal and sectionals)

(20%) Performances and Assessments: Participation in and promptness to performances and/or assessments (concerts, recording sessions, etc.). NOTE: sound checks are considered part of the performance.

(20%) Professionalism: Degree of professionalism exhibited in rehearsals, performances and virtual class meetings or guest lectures and timely and clear communication of illness, conflicts, concerns, etc. as would be expected of a professional educator or musician. Attendance and Promptness to sectionals and rehearsals is expected.

Required Sectionals will be held on a weekly basis (The principal player in each section is responsible for coordinating the sectional and informing the director of any absences from sectionals via the weekly sectional attendance form)

Attendance Policy:

Since each member is critical to the success of the ensemble, all students are required to be present at each rehearsal and sectionals and to participate fully in each class regardless of modality unless the absence falls under the excused absence policy.

Communication with the instructor of any absences is of the utmost importance. Excused absences are defined as illness, family emergency, or a university related event or activity (with prior approval). As with professional ensembles, students are expected to secure a qualified substitute for the rehearsal in advance. A full description of the substitute process will be discussed in the first rehearsal. Potential absences, other than those listed above, should be discussed directly with the conductor at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible. Final classification of absences will be at the sole discretion of the conductor.

- One unexcused absence = a maximum grade of B
- Two unexcused absences = a maximum grade of C
- Three unexcused absences = a maximum grade of D
- Four unexcused absences = a maximum grade of F

- An unexcused absence from a performance may result in an automatic grade of F and dismissal from the ensemble.

- Tardies accumulate at the rate of Three unexcused tardies=One Unexcused absence

- If at any time a student fails to meet the standards of attendance, rehearsal or performance for the ensemble, the student may be removed and replaced at the discretion of the conductor.

Use of Electronic Devices:

To maintain a focused learning environment, it is required that **cellular phones be turned off or made inaudible during class**. This includes checking emails on any other device.

Music Stands:

All Woodwind and Brass students must provide their own portable music stands for use in sectionals and practice rooms. University music stands will be used only for large ensemble rehearsals and performances. Students needing to order a portable music stand may obtain information from the band office on recommended stand models. Details will be discussed and recommendations made at the first class meeting.

Music and Concert Folders:

You will be given a concert folder for use during the semester. In addition, you will be given music and expected to return music at various times throughout the semester. Please listen and look for announcements regarding this process. If the pieces are originals, you are responsible for the maintenance of each piece that you are issued. Replacement costs for lost or damaged original music will be \$3 per page, and a lost or damaged black concert music folio will result in a \$20 replacement fee.

Concert Attire:

Gentlemen: Black suit, black long-sleeved dress shirt, solid black shoes and socks.

Ladies: Black pants and top of appropriate style (top, jacket or blouse MUST have sleeves) Shoulders should be covered (no spaghetti straps)-Black shoes are required-sandals are not considered appropriate. Attire should be ALL black)

In addition to appropriate traditional concert attire, students are expected to maintain professional personal appearance in the concert setting.

Modality and Virtual Learning Expectations

This course will be provided in a face-to-face format.

The following expectations are provided should virtual synchronous class meetings be utilized for any reason:

- Students should maintain a professional appearance as would be expected in the classroom.
- Students attending synchronous classes should have their video turned on and be attentive throughout the class. Please position your camera in a well-lit professional environment.
- Virtual attendance will be taken for any class that is met virtually.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

University Mission Statement:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

GRADUATE POLICIES

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

A&M Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and Tenets of Common Behavior:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Technology Requirements

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_supp ort.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

AI Use Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

IMPORTANT DATES - SPRING 2025

Sun, 1/12 - Jazz Ensemble auditions

Mon, 1/13 - First day of class

Thu, 1/16 - Improvisation class with special guest Mark Kellogg

Thu, 2/13 - No rehearsal (TMEA)

Fri, 2/28 - Jazz Ensembles Concert

Mar 10-14 - Spring Break

Thu, Apr 10 - Jazz Ensembles Concert