

MUSI-181: JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

12/05/2025

AS Approval

12/11/2025

BOT Approval

12/18/2025

COCI Approval

03/02/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements
Send Workflow to Initiator

No

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline
Minimum Qualifications

And/Or

Music (Master's Degree)

Subject Code

MUSI - Music

Course Number

181

Department

Music

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Jazz Ensemble

Short Title

Jazz Ensemble

CB03 TOP Code

1004.00 - Music

CIP Code

50.0901

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Update.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course is focused on the study, rehearsal, and public performance of the jazz ensemble repertoire, with an emphasis on the development of skills needed to perform within a jazz ensemble. Different repertoire will be studied each semester. Choice of ensemble is based on each student's identified major instrument. Assessment of proficiency on traditional jazz instrument: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, drums is required. The course is repeatable for credit.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Repeatable 3 Times

Justification for awarding credit more than once

Course repetition necessary to meet the lower division major requirements of a CSU or UC campus

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Limitation on Enrollment

By Audition.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

1.00

Lab Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

0

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

54

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

No

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	The student will perform with accuracy of pitch and rhythm, exhibiting appropriate style and expression, blending and balancing your part with the whole jazz ensemble.
2.	Evaluate and critique student jazz ensemble performance and receive personal performance criticism from others.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Play in time with section and ensemble as directed by the conductor.
2.	Play the correct pitches as indicated with accurate intonation.
3.	Play with the articulation, dynamics, phrasing, and expression as directed.
4.	Play appropriate to the traditional jazz styles of performance, period and composition.
5.	Perform improvised solos as applicable to the jazz chart.
6.	Demonstrate appropriate blend and balance within the section and jazz ensemble.
7.	Memorize performance repertoire as directed.
8.	Adhere to professional level jazz ensemble performance and rehearsal standards of conduct.
9.	Demonstrate increased skill in sight reading, analyzing, rehearsing and performing jazz repertoire.

Course Content

1. Musical skills
 - a. Rhythm
 - i. Correct reading of rhythm
 - ii. Playing together as a section/ensemble
 - iii. Follow the conductor as applicable
 - b. Intonation
 - i. Correct reading and production of pitches
 - ii. Tuning pitches and harmonies as a section/ensemble
 - c. Articulation
 - i. Correct readings of markings when applicable
 - ii. Following the conductor's gestures as applicable
 - iii. Agreement as a section/ensemble
 - d. Individual and ensemble tone
 - i. Blend as appropriate to section/ensemble
 1. Correct tone
 2. Correct volume
 3. Correct timbre
 - ii. Balance as appropriate to section/ensemble
 1. Correct tone
 2. Correct volume
 3. Correct timbre
 - e. Sight reading
 - i. Pitch notation
 1. Intonation
 2. Resonance
 3. Vibrato
 - ii. Rhythmic notation
 1. Syncopation
 2. Straight rhythm
 - f. Improvisation
 - i. Modal scales
 - ii. Ornaments (licks)
2. Instrument technical skills
 - a. Fingering
 - b. Tuning
 - c. Alternate techniques

- i. Exploring individual differences
 - ii. Embouchure
 - iii. Fingerings
- d. Vocal addition, when appropriate
- 3. Performance skill
 - a. Musical style
 - i. Historical period performance practices
 - ii. Improvised solos
 - iii. Memorization of performance repertoire as applicable
 - b. Compositional (individual composer) style, e.g.
 - i. Coltrane
 - ii. Holliday
 - c. Jazz stylistic performance
 - i. Band Jazz
 - ii. Jazz Combo
 - d. Standards of conduct
 - i. Attire
 - ii. Rehearsal/performance professional etiquette
 - 1. Attendance/participation
 - 2. Attitude Deportment
 - 3. Demonstrate musical preparedness in rehearsal/performance.
- 4. Repertoire
 - a. Jazz Charts
 - b. Arrangements of standard ballads
 - c. Original jazz arrangements/compositions

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Critique	Individual and group.
Lab	Rehearsal: individual, sectional, full group.
Observation and Demonstration	CD and instructor demonstration.

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Class Participation	Repertoire rehearsal/improvisation when appropriate.
Lab Activities	Rehearsal: Individual, Sectional, Ensemble.
Performances	Class Performance - Repertoire, Improvisation. Final Public Performance - Evaluated public performance in Main theater (PAC).

Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read through your part of an assigned chart. Locate difficult passages in terms of tuning with the rest of the ensemble.
2. Read chapter 3 on "Scales and Modes" in the book Jazzology: The Encyclopedia of Jazz Theory for All Musicians.

Writing Assignments

1. Perform your part from the assigned charts with accurate tuning, rhythmically matching, blending and balancing, articulating the phrasing with your section and the whole ensemble.
2. Create improvisational licks for the tune by Hoagy Carmichael, "Skylark."

Outside-of-Class Assignments

Student may be required to write an evaluation of an orchestral, wind ensemble or jazz concert performance.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials**Material Type**

Textbook

Author

Variety of Composers

Title

The Real Book, Volume IV

Publisher

Hal Leonard Corp

Year

2010

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Larry Neeck

Title

5.4 on the Richter Scale

Publisher

C.L. Barnhouse

Year

2007

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Robert Rawlins, Nor Eddine Bahha

Title

Jazzology: The Encyclopedia of Jazz Theory for all Musicians

Publisher

Hal Leonard

Year

2005

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

1. Music for each concert program selected by the instructor.
 2. Performance attire as appropriate for jazz ensemble and selected by the instructor.
-

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

This course accommodates diverse student populations through multiple learning modalities (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), flexible pacing, and varied assessment methods. It advances equitable outcomes by incorporating repertoire from multiple cultures and genres, allowing student choice in music selection, and welcoming learners at all skill levels. The course fosters inclusion through collaborative learning, ensemble playing, growth mindset emphasis, and principles that ensure all students can access and engage with content regardless of their background, learning style, or prior experience.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000286213

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No