
The University of North Carolina at Wilmington



Department of Music

UNCW Jazz Combo Syllabus

Mus 130, 330 • Fall 2009

Frank Bongiorno, Director

Office hours by appointment

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<http://www.uncw.edu/music/bongiornof/>

Description: The study and performance of jazz techniques and interpretation of popular styles within small ensembles (combos). Participation is determined by audition at the beginning of each semester.

Requirements

1. Two combo rehearsals each week. Sectionals as needed.
2. Individual preparation is required, while additional sectional preparation of music beyond the required sectionals is highly recommended.
3. Attendance and punctuality is mandatory for each rehearsal. Each absence will lower your grade one full letter. Three tardy days will lower your grade one full letter.
4. See also the UNCW **Academic Honor Code** found in the university catalogue.

Evaluations

1. Weekly evaluations will be based upon the student's assigned music preparation for the week.
2. There will also be performance evaluations once a month throughout the semester based upon the preparation and performance of the required concert music (see attached Course Outline for concert dates). Students will perform the prepared music as a section for during the assigned sectional time. Performance evaluations will be announced one week prior to the evaluation.

Objectives

1. To perform jazz styles within a combo format in order to develop ensemble performance skills such as intonation, tonal blend, dynamic control, rhythmic accuracy, and instrumental roles within an ensemble.
2. To perform jazz music with a satisfactory level of performance ability, skill competency, and musicianship.
3. To perform jazz music of different style periods with the correct jazz interpretation.
4. To be able to perform a jazz improvisation that is appropriate and idiomatic to the musical compositions studied.

Most of the objectives listed above will be accomplished through regular listening, analysis, and performance of various compositions for the big band jazz ensemble during weekly rehearsals and sectionals.

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE
Fall 2009

1. **Weekly rehearsals on Tuesday & Thursday.**
2. **Dress Rehearsals* & Concerts (Beckwith Recital Hall unless otherwise indicated):**

September

Wednesday 30 7:00-9:00 Dress rehearsal

October

Thursday 1 7:30 **Concert**

November

Thursday 5 7:00-9:00 Dress rehearsal

Friday 6 7:30 **Concert**

3. **Concert Attire:** Dark suits (i.e., black or navy blue), dark blue shirts and ties. Dark pants or skirt with dark blue blouse for the ladies.
4. **Listening Examples:** Whenever possible, musical excerpts of pieces to be performed by the band will be posted in an MP3 format on the instructor's website (see above) for student's use and reference. Please use this tool when preparing your music.

* **Concerts and rehearsals may be subject to change.**

Other performances may be added to the list as the opportunities arise.

Attendance Policies
(A Matter of Responsibility)

The jazz ensemble is composed of 9-20 individual parts that produce the overall sound of the ensemble. More so than many other music ensembles, each part is not only an important ingredient, it is often indispensable in the production of the ensemble's sound. In addition, an ensemble suggests that the parts of a group learn to work with each other in order to create a concerted effort. The following attendance policies have been established based upon these premises.

1. Rehearsals always begin at the indicated time.
2. **Attendance is mandatory at each rehearsal.**
3. In the case of a sudden last-minute emergency (e.g., sudden illness, car accident, etc.) and you are unable to attend rehearsal accordingly (i.e., either on-time or not at all), the student should immediately contact the director at the phone number listed above.
4. It is your responsibility to secure a substitute, in consultation with the director, if you are unable to attend rehearsal.
5. If you are unable to find a sub, your music should be at the rehearsal.
6. Students who are not ready to rehearse at the indicated time will receive a minus on the final grade for every other tardiness.
7. Each unexcused absence will lower your final grade one full letter.
8. A band member may not be excused from rehearsals 1-2 weeks before a concert. Band members unable to rehearse with the band within this time period may be asked not to perform on that concert.
9. Students are not excused from scheduled concerts with the exception of an emergency.

