



Spring 2026

Jazz Ensembles Syllabus

Course Title: Jazz Ensemble 1
Instructor: Dr. Sarah Roberts
Email: sroberts@uttyler.edu
Course Code: MUEN 1135/3135 001
Course Times: MWF 11:15-12:20
Classroom: FAC 1221

Course Title: Jazz Ensemble 2
Instructor: Mr. DJ Rice
Email: david.rice@uttyler.edu
Course Code: MUEN 1135/3135 003
Course Times: TTh 2:00-3:20
Classroom: FAC 1221

Course Overview

The Jazz Ensemble course provides students with the opportunity to develop advanced ensemble performance skills through the study and performance of jazz repertoire representing a variety of styles, composers, and historical periods. Emphasis is placed on musicianship, stylistic accuracy, technical proficiency, listening skills, and collaborative music-making within a professional rehearsal and performance environment.

Students will engage in regular rehearsals focused on ensemble balance and blend, rhythmic accuracy, articulation, phrasing, improvisation (when applicable), and stylistic interpretation. Repertoire may include traditional big band literature, small ensemble works, contemporary jazz compositions, and works by historically and culturally significant composers.

In addition to musical growth, the course emphasizes professional responsibilities expected of working musicians, including consistent preparation, punctual attendance, appropriate concert attire, effective communication, and respectful collaboration with peers and faculty. Public performances are a required component of the course and serve as a primary means of assessing student progress and achievement.

This course is designed for music majors and non-majors seeking a rigorous ensemble experience and contributes to the development of skills essential for future careers in performance, education, and related fields.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate rudimentary understanding of basic jazz chord notation and its various scalar components.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of jazz style and important historical aspects as they relate to the appropriate subject.
3. Apply proper jazz style and interpretation into performance practice.
4. Recognize and use the appropriate rhythmic patterns and articulations for any given jazz style.



- ☐ Combine aural, written, and cognitive skills acquired

Teaching Methods and Assignments to Achieve Learning Outcomes

- A. Assigned repertoire, technical studies, and pedagogical concepts will be taught.
- B. Performance experiences will be achieved in a myriad of performance opportunities.
- C. Students will have the opportunity to apply pedagogical and rehearsal techniques during student-led sectional rehearsals.
- D. Artist performances and recordings of assigned repertoire may be analyzed and evaluated as performance models.
- E. Master classes with guest instructors may be offered as pedagogical enhancements.
- F. Through active participation, students will discover about each work to be performed the following (but not limited to): composer information, analytical evaluation, notational considerations, individual performance challenges represented, recordings reviewed working with composers, or other sources consulted in preparation for the performance.

Required Materials

- ☐ Your instrument in good working order
- ☐ All music provided in class
- ☐ A pencil
- ☐ Mutes, doubles, reeds, cords (any required necessities per instrument are required at participants' expense.)

Course Structure

- ☐ Weekly rehearsals
- ☐ Two concert cycles splitting the semester in half. Additional performances may arise based on requests.

Communication

Students should frequently check the canvas class for course communications, assignments, and announcements.

In addition, students should join the Jazz GroupMe for easy communication for set-up/tear-down. https://groupme.com/join_group/112414642/qBiKxA1o

Concert Dress

Below are the various options utilized based on performance type/venue. In the performance details the concert dress will be stipulated:

- ☐ Option 1 (for outdoor and recruiting performances)
 - School of Performing Arts t-shirt
 - Jeans, khakis, or possibly shorts depending on the performance
 - Tennis shoes



- Option 2 (for formal concerts)
 - Dress pants or slacks
 - Dresses or skirts that fall at or below the knee
 - Blouses, dress shirts, or tops with shoulders covered
 - Jackets, vests, or ties
 - Closed-toe dress shoes (no athletic or casual footwear)

The following are not permitted:

- Jeans, denim of any kind
- Athleisure, leggings, or casual wear
- T-shirts, tank tops, or tops with exposed shoulders
- Tennis shoes, sneakers, sandals, or casual footwear

Attendance

- Attendance is required at all class meetings and performances.
- Students are expected to be in their seats ready to rehearse at the class start time, which means they should plan on arriving prior to the class start time to have their instrument out and set up. Failure to do so will result in a tardy.
- Unexcused absences from rehearsals will reduce your grade by one letter per absence.
- Unexcused absences from dress rehearsals and performances will reduce your grade to an F.
- Arriving late to rehearsals is below our standard of professionalism. Every two late arrivals will reduce your grade by one letter. (e.g. 2 absences will lower an "A" to a "B", 4 absences will lower an "A" to a "C")
- University events, auditions, religious obligations, and other educational conflicts may be excused and need to be communicated one week in advance.

Graded Course Requirements

The course grade will be weighted in the following areas

Rehearsal Preparation

60%

- A. Quality and Consistency of preparation
- B. Consistency in progress
- C. Attitude
- D. Completion of assignments
- E. Sectional rehearsal participation

Concerts and Performances

30%

- A. Ability to follow details of performance (i.e. arrived on time, assisted in set-up/tear-down, appropriate dress, etc.)
- B. Execution of music and growth/progress
- C. Attitude



Attendance

10%

- A. Punctual attendance at all scheduled rehearsals
- B. Presence for the full duration of rehearsal
- C. Compliance with attendance and absence procedures

Attendance constitutes 10% of the final course grade. Each student begins the semester

Total 100%

Grading Scales

- A – 90% or higher
- B – 80-89%
- C – 70-79%
- D – 60-69%
- F – Below 60%

Jazz Performance Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Place	Group
2/23/26	Jazz Combos Concert	7:30 pm	BRH	Jazz Combos
2/19/26	Count Basie Jazz Orchestra	7:30 pm	Cowan	
*Masterclass will happen sometime during the day!				
2/24/26	Jazz Ensembles Concert	7:30 pm	UC Mabry Theatre	Jazz 1 and 2
3/24/26	Collage Concert	7:30 pm	Cowan	Jazz 1
4/11/26	Patriot Premiere	10-2	Patriot Plaza	Jazz Combos
4/13/26	Jazz Combos Concert	7:30 pm	BRH	Jazz Combos
4/21/26	Jazz Ensembles Concert	7:30 pm	Cowan	Jazz 1 and 2

AI Statement

Students can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work.