



Fall 2026

Jazz Ensemble 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 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
8/28/26	All-State Workshop	8-4 pm	FAC	Everyone
9/28/26	UT Tyler Day at ETX Fair	5:00 pm	Fair Grounds	Jazz Ens.
10/6/26	Night of Jazz	6:00 pm	True Vine	Jazz Ens. & Swoop
11/30/26	Jazz Combos Concert	6:00 pm	BRH	Swoop
12/4/26	Jazz Ensemble Concert	7:00 pm	Cowan	Jazz Ens

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.

The following information is provided within the Syllabus Module related to Student Resources and University Policies and Information.

Student Resources:

Faculty can update student resources to provide additional supports appropriate for each course.

Resources to assist you in the course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)



- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Student Business Services](#) (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

University Policies and Information Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the [Withdrawal portal](#)..

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance.

CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with



the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. *Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).*

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when **all** of the following conditions are met:* (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the



syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.



Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports.

Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.