Objectives & Policies

You must be registered for the course in order to participate in the ensemble. This ensemble will focus on rehearsing and performing important works in the large jazz ensemble genre which fall within these criteria – a jazz standard, something written by an important composer, something set by an important arranger. You are expected to be at every rehearsal and every performance. Failure to do so will not only affect your grade in the course, but will also let down your fellow bandmates. Other courses may present a conflict with the rehearsal time. These situations need to be brought to my attention immediately. Department of Music sanctioned events are legitimate excuses for missing rehearsals, not performances, and the legitimacy of the excuse will ultimately be assessed by me.

All on-campus performances will take place in Martha Ellen-Tye recital hall. Spring 2016: February 17 @ 7:30, April 20 @ 7:30, Invite your friends and family to attend our performances. Live webcasting is available through the Department of Music for each concert we play in the MET Recital Hall.

You are expected to have the “nuts and bolts” of each piece mastered while developing the appropriate style and interpretation throughout the process. Improvised solo opportunities will be given to those members that work on the changes, play passionately, and attempt to inspire fellow bandmates. Sectionals may be called on occasion and section leaders will lead those rehearsals. These can be held in rooms 254, 256, and 002. Reservations are necessary.

You are responsible for your folder & music. Your instrument must be in working order for every rehearsal. You are highly encouraged to have equipment that will lend your playing to an authentic jazz sound (mouthpieces, mutes, effects, etc.) Drums and amplifiers are available in the jazz cage. Everyone is responsible for his or her own folder, chair, and stand. Bring a pencil and use it. Gentlemen are required to wear a black suit and tie. Ladies are required to wear concert black. Office hours are available by appointment. Reference recordings will be posted on our CyBox account. See me for additional guidance regarding approaches to improvising, playing certain styles, investigating other recordings, etc. Work hard and have fun playing this music.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.
Grading Criteria

Grading considerations include attendance, perceived effort, preparation, and attitude. I will excuse your absence if you provide justification to me (face to face or via phone) before the rehearsal begins. I will not accept an emailed excuse, but would appreciate the reminder. Each unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in your grade being lowered a full letter grade. Unexcused absences from a performance may result in a severe drop in your grade. Doctor’s notes, athletic band performances, and exams in other classes are often excused absences. Working a shift at your job, attending athletic events or participating in Greek socials are not considered excused absences.

Learning Outcomes

The student will demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of music with attention to several musical factors, including style, articulation, dynamics, blend and balance, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing. The student will acquire knowledge of the repertoire to be performed, including a historical and cultural context. The student will demonstrate the ability to successfully contribute in a cooperative learning environment.

The Practice Room is for learning your part.
The Rehearsal Time is for learning everyone else's part.