Small Jazz Ensembles
321J section G1 1 credit
mgiles@iastate.edu

2015-2016

Objectives & Policies

You must be registered for the course in order to participate in the ensemble. Ensembles will receive one coaching per week, and must have one additional rehearsal per week. Outside rehearsal times are arranged with both instructor and ensemble agreement. The Real Book volume 1 is a required text that can be purchased online. Be sure to get the book in your key. You are encouraged to write and arrange material. You are responsible for all music we cover at all times, so bring the book and other materials with you to each rehearsal. You are expected to practice the improvisations for each tune, although you may not solo on every song for performances. All music must be memorized for the concerts.

Concerts in the Martha Ellen-Tye Recital Hall are scheduled for Spring 2016: February 18 @ 7:30 and April 21 @ 7:30. Attendance is required, and absences may result in a severe drop in your grade. Concert attire is expected (Sunday-best). Audio and Video recordings will be available for your perusal. You may also be asked to perform as a service to the department or as a professional job. Invite your friends and family to attend our concerts. Live webcasting is available through the Department of Music for each concert we play in the MET Recital Hall.

You are responsible for having instruments that are in working order. Everyone should consider helping move the gear. Office hours are available by appointment. They are scheduled one week in advance. 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 or attending athletic events or 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.