Objectives & Policies

You must be registered for the course MUS321J section G1 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. All rehearsals are held in room 002 unless otherwise specified. You are responsible for checking out a room 002 key directly from me for your outside rehearsals. Keys are not available for checkout over the weekend. You are expected to be at every coaching 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 university courses may present a conflict with our regular rehearsal times and scheduled performances. These situations need to be brought to my attention immediately. Iowa State University sanctioned events may be credible excuses for your absence, but please know that I will ultimately determine the legitimacy of the excuse.

You are encouraged to write and arrange material. You are responsible for all music we cover at all times, so bring the music 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. Work hard and have fun playing this music. You may have the opportunity to select your own music for each performance, but understand that the final approval of each tune will be given by Mr. Giles. 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 room 002. Bring a pencil and use it. Concert Attire: gentlemen are required to wear a black suit and tie, ladies are required to wear concert black. Office hours are available by appointment and should be scheduled in advance. Reference recordings and performance media will be posted on our CyBox account (to which you will be invited). See me for additional guidance regarding approaches to improvising, playing certain styles, etc.

Attendance and participation in all performances listed below (both on & off campus) is required. Concert times will be announced and are subject to change. October 4th in the METRH – Jazz Night “Hand Signs”, October 11th in the METRH – Jazz Night “Feathers”, and November 29th in the METRH – Jazz Night “The Classical Crossover”. Each combo will play on two of the four aforementioned concerts, and that info will be shared at the first rehearsal. Invite your friends and family to attend our shows. Live webcasting is available for each concert we play in the Martha–Ellen Tye Recital Hall, located in room 140 of Estes Hall.

Disabilities

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.

Media Release

As a member of a Department of Music ensemble, we assume that you allow us the option to include your image and related audio for use in advertising/marketing for Iowa State University. If this is not acceptable, you must notify me, in writing, by the 10th day of the semester.
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 your anticipated absence. I will not accept an emailed excuse. Each unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in your grade being lowered a full letter grade, and unexcused absences from a performance may result in a severe drop in your grade. Doctors notes, athletic band performances, and exams in other classes are often excused absences. Working a shift at your job, honoring greek life commitments or attending extracurricular activities are not considered excusable absences. If you are unsure, contact me directly for clarification.

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 contribute in a cooperative learning environment.

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515–294–7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office.

Public Health

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home & focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with me to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, consistent with the aforementioned attendance policy. Thienen Student Health Center will continue to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to students, and the university will continue to offer masks and Covid-19 testing kits during the fall 2022 semester. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources. You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the Covid-19 vaccine & boosters, but these options are not required. All public health questions should be directed to publichealthteam@iastate.edu

Free Expression

Iowa State University supports & upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech, as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class & conveyed in an appropriate manner.