

SYLLABUS
Music 280/480
Combo Nation Jazz Combo
Thursday 6—7:30 P.M.
201 McCain Auditorium

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Course Overview and Syllabus

Prerequisite: Instructor permission/audition/interview

Course Outline: The **Combo Nation** jazz combo is a **beginner** level college jazz combo. We will examine and perform various jazz combo pieces selected from extant literature which may include cool, swing, hard bop, bossa, Latin, samba, funk/rock, and other styles. The primary goal of this course is to review the basic elements of jazz, and to prepare students to investigate the more rudimentary material found in the areas of jazz improvisation. The objectives of this course are for each student to a) develop the ability to incorporate these basic principles of jazz improvisation in their performance technique in order to raise their level of performance, and b) apply principles of jazz improvisation to standard jazz literature so that each participant is able to create a more sophisticated improvised solo (based on chord changes found in selected literature) that is logical and effectively incorporates the material covered in class; and c) demonstrate a thorough working knowledge of the principal players involved in the stylistic development of the various periods related to jazz improvisation.

Grading: Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will result in a full grade cut (i.e., one excused absence=B, two excused absence=C, etc.) Being late twice will constitute an unexcused absence. All rehearsals, performances, recording sessions, and extra rehearsals are required of all band members. All absences, lates, etc. must be cleared in advance by filling out a pink form and personally speaking with the director of the ensemble. An excused absence may require individual playing of parts for the conductor. Students are responsible for attending sectionals called by section leaders. Preparation and performance of assigned musical parts is the primary basis of grading.

Concert Dress: Dark semi-formal concert attire.

Performance Dates: Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and ability for material for material covered in class on a weekly schedule. Grades will be determined on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Fall 2011 KSU Jazz Calendar

October 26	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
October 31	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos
November 29	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
December 7	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos Bands

Spring 2012 KSU Jazz Calendar

March 14	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
March 15	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos
April 23	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
April 24	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos

CLASS ACTIVITIES

- Attend rehearsals once a week during regular class hours
- Learn one or two songs per week
- Soloists memorize the chord progression for improvisation
- Analyze chord structures using knowledge of jazz theory
- Memorize jazz licks
- Arrange sectionals for extra rehearsals
- Give and receive feedback from students regarding classroom performances
- Attend and perform on all concert dates

Extra Credit: This will be solely based on attendance, class participation, and demonstrating excellent performance skills pertinent to relevant subject matter in class. All points will be administered solely by the teacher's discretion.

Assignments/Projects: You are expected to practice the material that correlate to the current class activities, including textbook, class notes, CD LISTENING, handouts and other assigned materials.

Attendance: This is class that meets twice a week. Missing one session is nearly equivalent to missing a full week of class. Your presence and participation is essential to your success in this class.

Academic Honesty: Kansas State University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: www.ksu.edu/honor. A component vital to the Honor System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course should make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible.

Classroom Conduct: All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

N.B.—I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus and course overview as necessary.