

SYLLABUS
 Music 280/480 Fall 2009
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 2009 KSU Jazz Calendar

October 21	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
October 29	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos
November 23	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos Bands
December 1	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands

Spring 2010 KSU Jazz Calendar

March 11	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
March 23	Jazz Combo Concert	Union Station	KSU Combos
April 22	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Forum Hall	KSU Big Bands
April 28	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.

Disability statement: If you have a disability that I need to know about, please apprise me of it at once, and I will strive to insure that steps are taken to facilitate your learning in this course.

Policy statement on plagiarism and cheating: Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university. For more information refer to the appropriate policy in the Student Life Handbook. I expect all of the work you do in this class to be your own.

Assignments/Projects:

I. WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: 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 once a week. Missing one session is equivalent to missing a full week of class. Your presence and participation is essential to your success in this class.

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