

Course Syllabus
Music 280, Music 480 – Latin Jazz Ensemble
Class selected by audition
W 6:00-8:30 p.m., McCain Room 201, Fall Semester 2009
Instructor: Kurt Gartner - office phone: 532-3808; home phone: 776-3491;
e-mail: kgartner@ksu.edu

Overview:

The Latin Jazz Ensemble will explore a variety of Latin Jazz combo literature through rehearsals and in performance. The primary styles to be studied and performed are of the popular Cuban genre; e.g., *son*, *son-montuno*, *guaracha*, *mambo*, *cha-cha-chá*, *bolero*, etc. Students are expected to become familiar with the styles introduced in class, as well as their associated formal structures. Furthermore, students must become familiar with the rhythmic concept of *clave* in practical applications (such as improvised solo development) as well as theoretical knowledge. Additionally, students will sing some Spanish lyrics, and perform most arrangements largely by memory. Students should develop a sensitivity to the dynamic aspects of Latin Jazz performance such as open solos and flexible ensemble cues. This sensitivity should lead to high-level performances that emulate the musical styles (and aesthetics) being studied. Finally, students may have assignments in arranging and/or composing tunes for this ensemble.

Scheduled events (all subject to change):

K-State Celebrates	September 16	1-11 pm	Wichita
KSU Family Weekend	September 26	11 am-1 pm	Union
Combo Concert	October 29	7:30 pm	Forum Hall/Union
Combo Concert	December 1	7:30 pm	Forum Hall/Union
Other dates/times TBA			

Rehearsal/performance policies:

- Students must attend all rehearsals. If sickness or an emergency situation requires a student's absence from a rehearsal, the student must arrange for a substitute. The student must notify the instructor of the absence and provide the music to the substitute **prior** to the rehearsal to be missed. If the student cannot reach the instructor, he/she may leave a message at the above office telephone number. The student must also retrieve the music from the substitute following the rehearsal.
- Rehearsals will begin and end on time. Students are to set up and warm up prior to 6:00 p.m. Students are responsible for music stands and other gear. Players will get amp and other gear out of storage before each rehearsal. All players must provide their own implements, including sticks, mallets, etc. Large instruments will be provided by the school.
- Performances scheduled after the semester begins will be mandatory for the student if no objection is raised at the time of the query. It is possible that the ensemble will perform in an outreach concert of some kind during the semester. Any student who misses a performance or dress rehearsal without advance permission from the instructor may be immediately dropped from the class and assigned an F for the semester.
- No food or drink allowed in the rehearsal room.
- Once distributed, the music is the responsibility of the student. If music is lost or damaged, it is the student's responsibility to replace the music.
- Improvising soloists are responsible for complete preparation including memorizing chord changes, making a practice tape using Band-In-A-Box, "lifting" solos as instructed, and recording practice sessions and providing these recordings to the instructor, as required by the instructor. Students who do not adequately prepare will lose their solos to other students.
- Concert attire – "smart casual" – no ties, no jeans.
- Final grades will be based on attendance, tardiness, effort towards preparation of music outside of class, and conduct in rehearsals.

University policies:

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 reach 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.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any student with a disability that needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services and/or their instructor.

Expectations for Classroom Conduct

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