

MUS 325: Jazz Ensemble Techniques

Spring 2010

Instructor: Frank Bongiorno (bongiorno@uncw.edu)
<http://www.uncw.edu/music/bongiorno/courses.html>

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Text: Jazz Pedagogy: The Jazz Educator's Resource Guide
By Richard Dunscomb & Willie Hill, Jr.
Can be purchased at amazon.com and aebersold.com

Course Requirements

Requirements: Quizzes & Final
Observing & Directing a Jazz Ensemble
Assignments related to readings, observations, as well as class participation
Final Notebook

Attendance: Each absence beyond three will lower your grade one full letter.

Honor Code: See also the UNCW **Academic Honor Code** found in the university catalogue.

Explanation of Requirements:

1. Jazz Ensemble rehearsals:
 - Students will observe the faculty director (approximately four weeks).
 - After the observation period, each student will be responsible for rehearsing and preparing, in cooperation with the supervising director, a jazz ensemble during the remainder of the semester.
2. Directing a jazz ensemble:
 - Student will direct a select piece prepared during the semester with the assigned jazz ensemble on one of the scheduled jazz ensemble performances this semester or in rehearsal.
3. The student will submit a class notebook as a final. This will be due on the last day of class.
4. Regular quizzes will be administered during the course of the semester, and based upon lectures, observations, and readings.

Summary of Course Objectives

1. To identify and articulate the justification and philosophy of a jazz program in music education.
2. To be able to start and develop a jazz program in an educational environment.
3. To be able to understand the pedagogical processes of starting and developing a jazz ensemble.
4. To be able to identify and remedy musical problems within a jazz ensemble during rehearsal.
5. To be able to successfully select, rehearse, program, use sound reinforcement during a concert situation, and direct a jazz piece in performance with a jazz ensemble.

- Topic I:** Jazz Education Overview, Philosophy, and Concepts
1. Introduction, pp. 6-27
 2. The Jazz Program, pp. 28-61
 3. The Jazz Concept, pp.62-94
- Topic II:** The Jazz Ensemble and its Music
1. Auditions, pp. 129-135
 2. The rhythm section, pp. 184-235
 3. Jazz ensemble set-up and instrumentation, pp. 236-272
 4. Selecting music for your band, pp. 162-183
- Topic III** The Jazz Ensemble Director
1. Rehearsal techniques, pp. 151-161
 2. Teaching improvisation in a jazz ensemble, pp. 95-118
- Topic IV:** The Performance
1. Programming music
 2. Publicity
 3. Sound reinforcement
 4. Guest artists, jazz festivals and tours, pp. 273-283
- Topic V:** The “Other” Jazz Ensemble
The Jazz Combo, pp. 119-128

Final Notebook Due: Last class meeting

- Grading:**
- 20% Quizzes
 - 20% Assignments
 - 20% Directing an ensemble
 - 20% Final Notebook
 - 20% Final

THE UNCW STUDENT ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is a community of high academic standards where academic integrity is valued. UNCW students are committed to honesty and truthfulness in academic inquiry and in the pursuit of knowledge. This commitment begins when new students matriculate at UNCW, continues as they create work of the highest quality while part of the university community, and endures as a core value throughout their lives.