

PMUS 2000-004: Jazz Ensemble (F 2:30 to 5:00) and Guitar Ensemble (F 11:00 to 1:30)  
Instructor: Drew Morell      Office: Room 274 E      Phone: 303-788-1824  
EMAIL: [drewjazz@aol.com](mailto:drewjazz@aol.com)      **Fall Semester 2006**

## **Ensemble Course Syllabus**

### **Course description and objectives:**

This class meets once per week for combo rehearsal and lectures. The objective of this class is to help the student make improvements in the areas of melodic and harmonic reading, develop sight reading skills, improve knowledge of harmony and chords, learn to arrange songs, make improvements in melodic improvisation, improve the student's technique, and develop repertoire. This class will focus on the study of various jazz styles. This class is an upper-level combo – a very high level of performance, musicianship, and work ethic is expected. Consistent and effective home study and practice is required for this class.

**Work and Study ethic:** The student should be well prepared for each class. The performance and growth of the ensemble depends greatly on each student following through on their commitment to work on the ensemble's material. The student should set aside a minimum of seven hours a week for practicing this material. This ensemble is *not*, by any means, a group that you just show up and play each week without practicing in between rehearsals.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance policy will be strictly enforced. The second class period missed will result in a one half letter grade penalty (A becomes and A-). After the second class period missed, every two class periods missed will result in a full letter grade reduction. This may also apply to habitual tardiness. If a student is more than 30 minutes late, they will be counted as absent. If a student misses class it is their responsibility to contact a fellow student and get the weekly assignment. Students can make up one absence by completing a two chorus (72 measure) solo transcription (assigned by the instructor) and performing it with the ensemble's rhythm section. This assignment will be graded and serve as the class grade for the day they missed. Performance tests missed must be made up during the next class session.

### **Equipment:**

Students must bring their instrument and music as well as pencil and a notebook to each class. Students are also responsible for picks, cords, spare strings, etc. It is also strongly recommended that the student either purchase or gain access to a metronome. A transcriber computer program such as "Transcribe!" "The Amazing Slow Downer" and "SlowBlast" would be very helpful to the student taking this class. Band-in-a-box program would also be highly recommended for this class.

### **Assignments and Recitals:**

Students may be required to perform at least 4 recital/concerts or school functions per semester. Attendance of and performance in the Jazz Ensemble/Guitar Ensemble Expo concert performance (date and time TBA) is required to pass the class.

Songs and/or sections of songs will be given as assignments and the student will be tested, during class time, on their ability to perform these selections. Other assignments may include memorization of material, transcriptions of solos or solo fragments, through composed solos, technical drills at assigned metronome markings. Students of this ensemble are expected to make time to practice the material. We have limited rehearsal time so please work on the music! Students who consistently come to class ill prepared will be advised to drop the ensemble.

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### **Grading:**

Each week students will be given an assignment. Grades will be determined by the following: Completion of assignments (tested) (70%), Overall Progress (20%), and Required Concert Attendance (10%) and attendance. Students can obtain extra credit by demonstrating achievement beyond assigned material, such as obtaining recordings of the material, transcribing solos, writing solos, setting up sectional rehearsals, bringing in new material, practicing (then demonstrating) with Aebersold Cds or Band-in-a-Box, etc.

### **GRADING Criteria -**

- A** - Student who works with diligence, accomplishes more than is asked, and demonstrates a high degree of understanding and mastery of repertoire, whose performances and repertoire and contributions are exemplary.
- B** - Student, who demonstrated hard work, accomplishes what is asked and demonstrates an above average grasp of repertoire, whose contributions are significant
- C** - Student who demonstrates average interest and does adequate work
- D** - Student who marginally applies him/herself or whose grasp of subject matter is mediocre, (not passing grade for BS- Music emphasis)
- F** - Student lack of interest in a poor mastery of subject matter; Student whose class participation, attendance and performance is of unsatisfactory levels

IF/IW - Appeals will not be considered unless extraordinary circumstances (as per Student Handbook definition) can be proven.

**Office Hours:** Please check the schedule posted on the door of 274E for office hours.  
My office hours will be posted by Friday January 20.  
Call to schedule a time if you cannot come in during the posted office hours.

**Books:** The Real Book – sixth edition Hal Leonard Publisher (must have this by 2<sup>nd</sup> class meeting)

**Computer Program** - Each student must have the computer program Band in a box (any version 8.0 or later) installed on their personal computer by the third class meeting. (Drums exempt)

**Recordings:** *PLEASE NOTE* : Students may be required to obtain recordings of the pieces they are working on. Students will be required to bring those recordings to class with them.

**\*Required Attendance –**

**IMPORTANT DATES - REQUIRED ATTENDANCE**

-Thursday, November 2, 2006 *Drew Morell / Jeff Jenkins Duo* concert. 7:30 p.m. Concert Hall  
admission: \$5

**CAM Syllabi Addendum:** This class strictly adheres to the policies stated in the CAM Syllabi Addendum that accompanied this class syllabus.