



## Northwest College Jazz Ensemble

---

### **MUEN 1134 – Small Jazz Ensemble**

CRN 29424, 29439 – Fall 2014, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7 – 10 pm  
Northwest College, Spring Branch Performing Arts Center  
3 hour lab course (1 academic credit) / 48 hours per semester/ 16 weeks

**Instructor: Dr. Woody Witt**

**Contact Information: 713.718.5601; [woodrow.witt@hccs.edu](mailto:woodrow.witt@hccs.edu)**

#### **Office location and hours**

*Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and to discuss course topics. Feel free to come by my office anytime during office hours or schedule an appointment.*

#### **Course Description:**

**CRN 29424 is an advanced jazz ensemble geared toward small group performance with a maximum number of eight (8) students allowed per semester. STUDENT MUST HAVE PRE-APPROVAL FROM INSTRUCTOR.**

**CRN 29439 is an advanced large ensemble (big band) geared toward large ensemble performance with set instrumentation (saxophones, trumpets, trombones and rhythm section). This group explores traditional and contemporary big band repertoire and requires high-level reading and improvisation skills.**

#### **Prerequisites:**

Student must have advanced knowledge and experience in jazz performance, music reading proficiency (as determined by the instructor).

#### **Course Goal:**

Students will improve ensemble performance, reading and improvisation skills through rehearsals and performances.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Student will:

1. Be totally prepared, warmed up and ready to work the moment class begins.
2. Develop knowledge of small and large ensemble repertoire appropriate to the instrumentation of the class.
3. Learn rehearsal techniques appropriate to the instrumentation of the class.
4. Participate in all out of class rehearsals in a professional manner: i.e. to be on time, be prepared, and be warmed up and ready to play/sing.
5. Develop techniques to make the group cohesive as a unit.
6. Participate in all performances, on campus and off.

**Learning objectives:**

Students will:

1. Explore performance methods using students' original ideas.
2. Arrange for performance various combinations of instruments and voices using student's original ideas as well as pre-existing melodies.
3. Study the methods used by professional performers
4. Attain a working knowledge of the properties of instruments
5. Correctly notate and transpose music for various instruments
6. Further explore psychological and philosophical aspects of jazz improvisation.

**SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement and Other Standards**

*Credit: 3 (3 lecture)*

This course is designed to help individuals decide whether composing and arranging music would prove beneficial in their professional endeavors, be they teaching, performing, or in corollary careers to music.

**Student Assignments**

Assignments have been developed that will enhance your learning. To better understand a topic, you will be given assignments on key information that you will need to remember for your success in your career as an educator. Students will be required to successfully create original music or arrange for various instrumental and/or vocal combinations pre-existing melodies.

Final Exam

The final project will be a public performance demonstrating techniques learned during the course of the semester. The nature of this performance shall be decided by the instructor.

Field Study

Student is expected to attend live performances on and off campus.

## **Grading**

Your instructor will conduct quizzes, exams, and assessments that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, you are encouraged to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. Your instructor welcomes a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance.

### **Assessments:**

Mid-Term/Final Project - 40%  
Participation - 60%

### **Attendance:**

Two unexcused misses – one grade drop (an A becomes a B)  
Four unexcused misses – two grade drops (an A becomes a C)  
Six + unexcused misses – automatic failure or withdrawal (at discretion of instructor)

## **Instructional Materials**

Manuscript Paper, preferably the “Music Keeper” published by Lorenz Publishing Co.

### **EGLS<sub>3</sub> -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

## **HCC Policy Statement - ADA**

### Services to Students with Disabilities

Students who require reasonable accommodations for disabilities are encouraged to report to Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7910 to make necessary arrangements. Faculty is only authorized to provide accommodations by the Disability Support Service Office

## **HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty**

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcement roles. You are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog. What that means is: If you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with

honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. "Scholastic dishonesty": includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating on a test includes:

- Copying from another students' test paper;
- Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit.

Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook)

### **HCC Policy Statements**

*Class Attendance - It is important that you come to class!* Attending class regularly is the best way to succeed in this class. Research has shown that the single most important factor in student success is attendance. Simply put, going to class greatly increases your ability to succeed. You are expected to attend all lecture and labs regularly. You are responsible for materials covered during your absences. Class attendance is checked daily. Although it is your responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences.

If you are not attending class, you are not learning the information. As the information that is discussed in class is important for your career, students may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5% hours of instruction. The six hours of class time would include any total classes missed or for excessive tardiness or leaving class early.

You may decide NOT to come to class for whatever reason. As an adult making the decision not to attend, you do not have to notify the instructor prior to missing a class. However, if this happens too many times, you may suddenly find that you have "lost" the class.

Poor attendance records tend to correlate with poor grades. If you miss any class, including the first week, you are responsible for all material missed. It is a good idea to

find a friend or a buddy in class who would be willing to share class notes or discussion or be able to hand in paper if you unavoidably miss a class.

Class attendance equals class success.

### **HCC Course Withdrawal Policy**

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than **SIX** total course withdrawals **throughout** their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor *may* “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class you must do so **PRIOR** to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. \*\*Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. ***Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline.*** If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

### **Repeat Course Fee**

The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

### **Classroom Behavior**

As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop

and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

### **Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices**

As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations

### **Instructor Requirements**

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Participate in all exercises given in class
- Practice privately or in conjunction with other class members all music assignments given in class
- Work and interact with other students toward the achievement of a common goal.