



Peru State College
MUSC 103 JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Syllabus – Spring – 2012

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Fortney

Office: Hoyt 114

Office Hours: Variable (speak to Brenda Trail to schedule an appointment)

Phone: 402-872-2418 Office, 402-217-5095 Cell (Please, no calls after 10 PM)

E-mail: pfortney@peru.edu

Web Page: www.hpcnet.org/peru/schoolartssciences/fine/music/fortney

Course Description:

Jazz Band is a performance course open to all students who have prior experience playing a band instrument or other instruments used in jazz groups, e.g., electric/string bass, piano, or guitar, and reading music, or with the consent of the instructor. An emphasis is placed on the study and performance of traditional and contemporary jazz literature in a variety of idioms and styles. Concerts are performed on and off campus. Two days attendance per week required.

Prerequisites:

Prior experience playing an instrument appropriate to the jazz idiom and reading music or consent of the instructor.

Text:

No text is used, but appropriate jazz band literature is selected for study and performance. The literature will change each semester.

Objectives:

- (1) To study and perform a variety of jazz and/or popular music literature.
- (2) To improve individual and group reading and playing skills.
- (3) To improve awareness of and improvement of breathing and kinesthetic skills.
- (4) To gain insight into jazz performance styles and techniques.
- (5) To develop a degree of professionalism when presenting public performances.

Instruction Method/Mode of Delivery:

General rehearsal and standard performance techniques will be utilized. Recordings on tape or CD may be used to help illustrate various styles and/or techniques.

Student Requirements:

- (1) Students must attend and be on time for all rehearsals.
- (2) Students must spend sufficient time outside Jazz Band rehearsal time in order to have their part prepared.
- (3) Students must participate in ALL public performances. Failure to participate in a public performance may result in failing the course.
- (4) Students must have a positive attitude at all times.

Assessment Method:

Grades will be based upon attendance, preparation, public performances, and attitude.

Grading Policy:

Your attendance and participation is required at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concerts. Your attendance and class participation are the primary criteria used to determine your grade in this course. Any absence from this class automatically affects your grade.

If you must miss rehearsal, in order to be considered for an excused absence, you must notify Dr. Fortney in advance. Call 402-872-2418 (leave a message if necessary) or call 402-217-5095 (also, leave a message). After your absence you must provide a written excuse at the following rehearsal.

After four unexcused absences your membership in the ensemble will be terminated. You will need to drop the course or receive an "F" in the course.

Absences may be excused for any reasonable excuse such as death in the family, personal illness or serious illness in the family. The director will determine if absences are excused. Excused absences require advance notice.

Absences for school related field trips and other school activities are not normally counted against your grade provided you have established a good attendance record. Frequent absences for any reason will automatically affect your grade in the class.

After three excused absences your grade is lowered one college grade unit for each excused absence. For example: 4 excused absences = B+, 5 excused absences = B, 6 excused absences = C+, etc. Your attendance is very important to this course and to the ensemble.

Unexcused absences should be very rare. Every unexcused absence lowers your grade one full letter grade. If you have four unexcused absences, your membership in the group will be terminated.

Unexcused absences from dress rehearsals and performances are very serious and can result in a failing grade in the class. Plan ahead. Missing a dress rehearsal or performance for any reason will automatically lower your final course grade. Missing a performance or dress rehearsal should be only for emergency reasons.

Grading Scale

A 90-100

B+ 85-89

B 80-84

C+ 75-79

C 70-74

D+ 65-69

D 60-64

F 0-59

Tardies: Every three tardies counts as one unexcused absence. It is your responsibility to arrive on time for rehearsal. Any conflicts talk to the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, to arrive punctually, and to complete all assigned work. Attendance is a privilege and a responsibility represented by not only the student's investment, but also by a significant investment by the State of Nebraska.

There is no way to make up a lost rehearsal. If it is necessary to miss a rehearsal it will be necessary to complete a "Request for Excused Absence" form and submit it to the director for approval prior to the requested absence. Absences due to emergencies will be dealt with at the discretion of the director.

Incomplete Coursework:

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

College's Academic Integrity Policy:

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

NSCS Board of Trustees Policy 4220 states that each College “. . . will establish a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored.” Peru State College's policy is that each course that is offered entirely online will feature a proctored final exam that substantially measures the extent the course's stated learning objectives are achieved. Online course syllabi will clearly state that, regardless of grades earned previously, the proctored final exam must be passed in order to receive credit for the course. Courses which feature graded site-based activities (e.g., teaching demonstrations) and/or video-taped presentations that occur near the end of the term, and that are designed to substantially assess the achievement of learning objectives, can be considered in compliance with this policy. Project-based capstone and graduate courses utilizing real-time discussions held by web-cam, phone or in person with the faculty member as part of the assessment process can also be considered in compliance with this policy.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of

academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

Title IX Compliance Notice:

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

Important Concert Dates:

Sun., Feb. 26	Band Concert	Coll. Theater	3:00 p.m.
March 5 – 9	Misty Blues/Hoyt Street Jazz Tour		
Wed., March 14	PSC Jazz Festival	Coll. Theater	TBA
Tues., April 24	Misty Blues/Hoyt Street Concert	Coll. Theater	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., April 26	Jazz on the Green	Quad	11:00 a.m.

Other performances to be announced as scheduled.

The instructor reserves the right to modify any aspect of the course syllabus or content. Any modifications will be communicated to students in advance.