

**Fayetteville State University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of Music**  
**Music 140**  
**Fall Semester 2009**

**I. Locator Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Neal Finn

Course # and Name: FSU Jazz Ensemble

Semester Credit Hours: 1

Day and Time Class Meets: MF 12:00 to 12:50

Total Contact Hours for Class: 1

Email address: nfinn@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: R-107

Office hours: MWF 10 to 11 AM, TTH 10 to 11 AM

Office Phone: 672 - 1397

**FSU Policy on Electronic Mail:** Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account ([username@uncfsu.edu](mailto:username@uncfsu.edu)) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at  
<http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

**II. Course Description:**

A performing ensemble specializing in contemporary big band jazz, performing literature representing the various styles and period in jazz history, encouraging the development of jazz improvisation as well as composition and arranging for the idiom.

**III. Disabled Student Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor); 910-672-1203.

**V. Student Learning Outcomes –**

Upon completion of the course the student will:

perform to their full and maximum potential as an ensemble, functioning as a well-rehearsed and cohesive unit with musicality, precision and attention to detail.

develop professionalism in all they do. In preparing the music for public performance, in relating to each other on a daily basis with respect and cooperation, and taking pride in giving our best performances every time we take the stage.

perform every piece to our best ability level consistently.

represent the music department and the university in the highest quality manner possible

develop an understanding of jazz styles and literature from various periods of jazz history, represented by the many and varied jazz composers and improvisors associated with it.

explore the essential element of jazz improvisation as a part of the experience

## VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

### Daily Attendance/Punctuality

For the benefit of those of you who are new, our rehearsals begin at **3:00 ON THE DOT**. With three 50-minute hours per week we do not have time to waste. **I insist on punctuality**

Everyone's part in this ensemble is important. When you are absent there is a huge hole that is noticeable. And by the same token, no one is irreplaceable.

Tardiness will, at first, be reflected in your final grade. If absences and/or tardiness continue in spite of warnings you will be FIRED, just like any other ensemble in this university.

### Participation/Preparedness

This means not only being on time for rehearsal, but also being prepared in terms of having the music practiced and prepared for rehearsal. This also applies to sectional rehearsals.

### Progress/Interaction/Improvement

We must treat each other with respect and decorum. You are **PROFESSIONALS**, not children. Rehearsals should be enjoyable, but not "hang out" time. We are going to work up a good sweat in rehearsal. While I do not insist on perfection, I do expect your best effort and complete concentration and dedication to excellence.

We depend on each other to make this experience a great one for all of us.

### Performances

Scheduled performances are not optional. They are assignments just like any other class. If you are not present you have earned a failing grade for the assignment. If you have too many conflicts with outside activities then I need to find someone else to play your chair.

I will not schedule additional performances beyond the one given to you at the beginning of the semester without checking with you first.

November 5 – Jazz Night at Seabrook – 7:00 w/ Fayetteville Jazz Orchestra

### Improvisation

In addition to learning to play as an ensemble, we will be exploring the dimension of jazz improvisation, which is such an essential to the overall experience of being part of a jazz ensemble as well as the vital and essence of jazz music overall.

While you are not required to be a soloist per se and your grade is not determined by whether or not you improvise, this is a great opportunity for you as individuals to get acquainted with this art form.

Don't be afraid to improvise. No one will laugh at you or criticize you for trying. This is a really exciting part of the experience, one that allows you individual expression and interaction. Take advantage of it.

## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Grading Standard

Daily Attendance/Punctuality	25%
Participation/Preparedness	25%
Progress/Interaction/Improvement	25%
Performances	25%

	A	B	C	D	F
Daily Attendance/Punctuality	Regular attendance, on time ready to play at 3:00. Informs instructor of schedule conflicts	Regular attendance, occasionally late	Consistently late, often absent without notice	Absent more often than attends	No Show
Participation/Preparedness	Comes to rehearsal with parts practiced and learned to highest level. Takes part in the development of ensemble and him/herself individually	Learns parts with some degree of reluctance. Contributes more to ensemble than to him/herself	Performance level inconsistent. Parts still shaky after peers have learned theirs. Wrong notes, mental errors due to lack of practice or missed rehearsals	Little participation in ensembles development. Does not practice or learn required parts	No Show
Progress/Improvement	Shows interest in personal growth and through diligent practice and instruction, shows consistent improvement over the course of the term	Shows improvement but takes longer to get where they want to go. Could afford to work harder	Performs at same level at the end of the term as the beginning. Only as much effort put in as required, little more than that	Little progress or even regression. D student does not care if they improve. Tends to hold others back. Should consider dropping course	No show
Performances	Gives a concentrated and professional performance of the assigned music. On time, properly dressed, mentally sharp	Does above average job on music and is punctual. Makes slight degree of errors, mentally and mechanically	Prone to mental and mechanical error due to lack of preparation and missed rehearsals	Not sure if this student will show up for a performance. Missing a scheduled performance without notice is grounds for failure of course	No Show

**7. TEACHING STRATEGIES** This course will involve lectures/demonstrations, student discussions, ensemble rehearsals, live performances, study of jazz literature, sessions involving the art of improvisation.

## **GRADING DISTRIBUTION**

Attendance	25%
Exams/Midterm	25%
Final Exam	20%
Concert Report	15%
Recording Review	15%

## **UNIVERSITY GRADING SCALE**

A	92% - 100%
B	83% - 91%
C	73% - 82%
D	64% - 72%
F	Below 64%

### **FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom (Optional)**

The *Code of the University of North Carolina* (of which FSU is a constituent institution) and the *FSU Code of Student Conduct* affirm that all students have the right to receive instruction without interference from other students who disrupt classes.

FSU Core Curriculum Learning Outcome under Ethics and Civic Engagement (6.03): All students will “prepare themselves for responsible citizenship by fulfilling roles and responsibilities associated with membership in various organizations.” Each classroom is a mini-community. Students learn and demonstrate responsible citizenship by abiding by the rules of classroom behavior and respecting the rights all members of the class.

The FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior (see FSU website for complete policy) identifies the following behaviors as disruptive:

1. Failure to respect the rights of other students to express their viewpoints by behaviors such as repeatedly interrupting others while they speak, using profanity and/or disrespectful names or labels for others, ridiculing others for their viewpoints, and other similar behaviors;
2. Excessive talking to other students while the faculty member or other students are presenting information or expressing their viewpoints.
3. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices
4. Overt inattentiveness (sleeping, reading newspapers)
5. Eating in class (except as permitted by the faculty member)
6. Threats or statements that jeopardize the safety of the student and others
7. Failure to follow reasonable requests of faculty members
8. Entering class late or leaving class early on regular basis
9. Others as specified by the instructor.

The instructor may take the following actions in response to disruptive behavior. Students should recognize that refusing to comply with reasonable requests from the faculty member is another incidence of disruptive behavior.

1. Direct student to cease disruptive behavior.
2. Direct student to change seating locations.
3. Require student to have individual conference with faculty member. At his meeting the faculty member will explain the consequences of continued disruptive behavior.
4. Dismiss class for the remainder of the period. (Must be reported to department chair.)
5. Lower the student’s final exam by a maximum of one-letter grade.
6. File a complaint with the Dean of Students for more severe disciplinary action.

Students who believe the faculty member has unfairly applied the policy to them may make an appeal with the faculty member’s department chair

## **VII. Academic Support Resources – FSU Music Lab, Rosenthal Building.**

