

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**

COURSE OUTLINE

MU 1410 3(0-0-4) Wind Ensemble Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Robert Howey, B. Mus., University of Alberta; B. Mus. (Mus. Ed.), University of Saskatchewan; MM (Instrumental Mus. Ed.) and DMA (Mus. Ed.) Arizona State University
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Course Description

The wind ensemble is a performing group consisting of brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments that plays wind band literature in at least two concerts per year. It is a requirement or corequisite for students taking applied music and is open to other college students and members of the community. The college students who are taking the course for credit are required to set up before rehearsals and concerts and to help organize the band literature for the group.

Transfer Credit Pending

Athabasca University, Augustana University College, Concordia University College, King's University College, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge.

Prerequisite

Usually at least six years of school band experience and the display of advanced playing skills evident by audition for the wind ensemble director or by recommendation of the local or regional high school band directors. The placement of community members in the ensemble is up to the discretion of the wind ensemble director and may be based on a combination of reputation, ability, music background, need for that particular instrument, and years of study.

The Course in Perspective

Students will gain a practical knowledge of duties involved in directing a band, of more challenging band literature, of stylistic aspects of music performance, and of band rehearsal and conducting techniques. The playing skills developed through this ensemble will be reinforced by private study with instructors in the department. This class provides an ensemble requirement for music students.

Assignments and Attendance

The students who are enrolled in wind ensemble for credit are required to play a December midterm and end of year final playing examination consisting primarily of the playing of scales and their respective band parts. Improvement in playing skills and a positive attitude are the main criteria for doing well on the examinations. Students will be

graded on their ability to play their parts and their scales and their contribution to the success of the group during rehearsal and performance. The examinations are set for the last rehearsal in December and the last rehearsal in April.

Attendance is absolutely mandatory for students taking the ensemble for credit. Those students are required to contact Dr. Howey if they need to miss a rehearsal for any reason. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal results in a drop of one whole grade for the course and an unexcused absence from a concert results in a failing grade for the course. Three or more absences from rehearsals results in a failing grade in the course. The wind ensemble director is responsible for applying these rules on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of an extreme family emergency members must let the director know the reason for the absence no later than 4 days after the missed rehearsal. In the case of personal illness, members must provide the director with a medical certificate within one week of the missed rehearsal or they will not receive an excused absence for the missed rehearsal or performance.

Members who arrive late and leave early will be monitored. Perennial problems with absences for parts of rehearsals will be discussed on a case-by-case basis and if they are not resolved, may affect the final mark for the course.

Additional Practice Time for Accredited Students

Each student taking wind ensemble for credit is responsible for an hour of additional practice time in sectional or with the instructor each week in addition to the three hours of rehearsal time. This makes up the four hours of rehearsal time.

Participation in Band Responsibilities

The students taking wind ensemble for credit are required to be on time for all rehearsals and help with the band set up and take down. If everyone helps, this happens quickly and leads to a positive atmosphere in the band and the rehearsal. The percussionists may need extra help so pitch in when you have an opportunity. Other responsibilities include fund raising ideas, publicity and marketing projects, etc.

Band Concerts

Attendance at all professional-level band concerts that come to Grande Prairie is strongly suggested. Also members should try to attend at least one amateur-level band or orchestra concert of considerable quality each semester (i.e. Composite High School Band, Marching Band, etc.).

Program Notes

The accredited wind ensemble members will be asked to prepare program notes for the two home concerts put on by the wind ensemble. Included in the programs and announced at the concerts will be information on each composer featured at the concert and notes about each piece. Members also will be asked but not required to address the

audience at the concerts. Each accredited member will write program notes once during the year.

Conducting and Playing of Concertos

Students who have an interest, training or experience in conducting may be given an opportunity to direct the group at a concert. Students who are working on a piece that has been written with band accompaniment can talk to the director about being featured on a concert. It is up to the director to decide on whether to grant the conducting opportunity or the solo performance.

Evaluative Criteria:

December Examination	20
Program Notes	10
Term Work	50
Attendance, deportment, attitude, ability, performance, leadership, self-motivation, improvement, and participation in class	
Final Examination in April	20

Required Materials:

Instrument, music, and a pencil

End of Term Testing in December:

1. Scales—major scales to 3 sharps, 3 flats, slurred and tongued.
2. Selections from band pieces that the director will assign.

End of Year Testing in April:

1. Scales—all major scales, slurred and tongued.
2. Selections from band pieces that the director will assign.

The following is a typical rehearsal schedule for the ensemble. Students taking band for credit are responsible for an extra hour of additional practice time per week that will be scheduled once the year has started.

Wind Ensemble Rehearsals Fall Session 2008 at Grande Prairie Composite High School except where noted

S4	Meeting with college students and auditions in L107
S11	First full rehearsal 7:00-10:00 PM
S18	7:00-10:00 PM at the College Theatre
S25	7:00-10:00 PM at the College Theatre
O2	7:00-10:00 PM
O9	7:00-10:00 PM
O16	7:00-10:00 PM
O23	7:00-10:00 PM

- O30 7:00-10:00 PM
- N6 7:00-10:00 PM
- N13 7:00-10:00 PM
- N20 7:00-10:00 PM
- N27 Dress Rehearsal: 7:00-10:00 PM at the College Theatre. Set up at 4:00PM.**
- N28 Friday Concert at 7:30PM at the GPRC Theatre. Call time is at 6:30PM.**
- D1-5 Midterm testing for college students by appointment.**
- D11 Thursday Concert at the GPRC Theatre—Christmas Band Concert. Call time at 7:30PM. Band plays at the end of the program.**

**Wind Ensemble Rehearsals Winter Session 2009 at
Grande Prairie Composite High School
except where noted with bold printing**

- J8 First full rehearsal 7:00-10:00 PM
- J15 7:00-10:00 PM at the College Theatre
- J22 7:00-10:00 PM at the College Theatre
- J29 7:00-10:00 PM
- F5 7:00-10:00 PM
- F12 7:00-10:00 PM
- F19 No rehearsal due to winter semester break
- F26 7:00-10:00PM
- M5 7:00-10:00 PM
- M12 7:00-10:00 PM
- M19 7:00-10:00 PM
- M26 7:00-10:00 PM
- A2 Dress Rehearsal: 7:00-10:00 PM at the College Theatre.**
- A3 Friday Concert at 7:30PM at the GPRC Theatre. Call time is at 6:30PM.**

For students and community members who are not taking private lessons through the college, regular practice on your instrument is essential for the success of the wind ensemble. You should be practicing the following:

1. Warm-ups
2. Long Tone Exercises—work on a consistent smooth sound between registers, crescendo and diminuendo exercises, and holding a steady sound.
3. Flexibility Exercises—play the instrument throughout its entire range and work on improving range. These exercises are essential for maintaining and improving consistency in note placement.
4. Scales and scale exercises.
5. Articulation exercises in the various note durations from legato to staccato.
6. Intelligent work on the band music focusing on the passages that cannot be played or cannot be played consistently Work on divide and conquer: isolate the individual note problems that need fixing and work first for evenness at a slow tempo and later for speed.