
**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

Course Outline

1997-98

MU 1410/MU 2410 Jazz Ensemble 3 UT Full Year

Instructor: Derek J. Tuba B.Mus., M.Mus., Artist Diploma
Office and Phone: L116, 539-2014
Office hours: Monday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. & by appointment.

Rehearsal Times: Wednesday 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., room L107. All musicians are expected to be ready to tune at 7:00; that is, one should have reeds moistened, music, mutes and pencils present, etc. Extra rehearsals are only infrequently necessary; these will be scheduled far enough in advance to allow for convenient planning.

Course Description: the Jazz Ensemble is a performance focused training ensemble. Through instruction, application in rehearsals and public performance the student will gain the knowledge and experience of the skills and protocol required of performers in professional music ensembles.

Course Objectives: Jazz Ensemble students will be exposed to the traditional and contemporary body of literature of the modern jazz ensemble and the art of improvisation. As a result of participation and observance in rehearsals and with personal practice and reflection it is expected that all students who complete the course will become more accomplished ensemble performers and improvisers. In the process the student will develop a greater sense of 'inner pulse', technical facility, tone development, and an increased sight-reading facility. Improvisation is required of all ensemble members. A basic introduction to jazz theory and improvisation will be taught as part of the course.

Evaluation: 50% Weekly performance in the Jazz Ensemble
50% Individual testing & Assignments

Course Requirements:

1. Weekly Performance (50% - 25%/Term)

- a. **PREPAREDNESS:** arrive in plenty of time to warm up, be in your place, and be ready to play at the appointed starting time with reeds, mutes, instruments, pencils, music, etc.. This is a professional courtesy to other ensemble members. Students are to be seated by 6:50 p.m. and to be warming up in preparation for the start of the rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. You will be marked late if you are not in your seat at this time. You will be given two unquestioned excused lates.
- b. **TECHNICAL MASTERY OF THE PART;** students are expected to be prepared. It would not be unusual that mastery of the part could require 1-3+ hours of personal practice per week. Students are required to practice individual parts with metronome. Students are expected to be able to perform their parts at the marked tempo indications (unless otherwise indicated by the conductor).
- c. **SCALES & MODES:** Students are expected to learn to be able to perform by memory the scales and modes covered in rehearsals. Students will be tested on these scales twice per term as part of the performance tests. The ability to perform scales and modes with facility and ease is the foundation of improvisation.

d. **AURAL SKILLS:** In order to develop your aural skills & musicianship you must know your part. The key to developing better ensemble performance skills is to LISTEN, LISTEN & LISTEN. To develop progressively better personal intonation in order that ensemble rehearsals can focus upon ensemble intonation concerns rather than personal. When intonation problems arise during a rehearsal the players, not the conductor, are expected to try to resolve the problem. If after trying the player is unable to accomplish this then ask the conductor for help.

e. **ATTENDANCE:** Membership in any of the GPRC Ensembles is a commitment to be taken seriously. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. It is not acceptable to skip a rehearsal because you have an upcoming project or exam in another class. Unavoidable absences or delays must be brought to the attention of the music director in advance of the rehearsal. Call 539-2014 if I am not available leave a message on the answering machine. Arrange to have your music delivered to the rehearsal.

f. **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE.** Keeping count during rests. Be prepared to stop and restart quickly. When the conductor signals the ensemble to tacet, tacet, do not try to finish the phrase. Learn by listening when the conductor is giving instruction to another section check if this applies to your section (part). Talking in rehearsal prevents those involved and the players surrounding from listening to the conductor and therefore talking in rehearsals is discouraged.

g. **LEADERSHIP:** Unless the conductor indicates otherwise, stylistic and technical matters are up to section leaders. Players should try to match intonation and timbre as a section to blend into the ensemble.

h. **ATTITUDE:**

Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. Abraham Lincoln

Each man has choice in life: he may approach it as a creator or critic, a lover or a hater, a giver or a taker. anon.

Two stone cutters were asked what they were doing. The first said, "I'm cutting this stone into blocks." The second replied, "I'm on a team that's building a cathedral." Old Story

2. Individual Testing & Assignments (50% - 25%/ Term)

- a. Performance Requirements
 - i. Performed Jazz Ensemble repertoire, Scales & Modes (two tests/term)
 - ii. Intonation Charting Assignments
 - iii. Other
- b. Written Assignments
 - i. Guided Listening Units
 - ii. Written critical evaluation of one jazz ensemble concert to be handed in prior to or at the last rehearsal of each term.
 - iii. Other
- c. Other
 - i. Assist the Music Director with various administrative duties related to the Wind Ensemble.

3. Bonus Points (5%)

You will receive an additional 5% to your final wind ensemble grade if you participate also in either the GPRC Wind Ensemble or in Chamber Music Ensemble (TBA).

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Grading for the part tests will be given according to the nine-point system. Each stanine is representative of the following standard of performance:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
9	Reserved
8	All major and minor goals achieved
7	All major goals achieved, one or 2 minor areas need improvement
6	All major goals achieved, many minor areas need improvement
5	Some major goals achieved but there are several problem areas. Some problems persist from previous evaluations.
4	No major goals achieved. Problems persist from previous evaluations

The grade of 9 is reserved until computation of your Final Grade. At the instructor's discretion, this grade will be applied to reward a consistently 'excellent' standard in all areas of the course.

2. Attendance Policy for Jazz Ensemble Students

It is required that students attend all rehearsals as their performance will be evaluated in an ongoing manner. All performers are essential to the ensemble whole if we are to achieve a high standard of performance. Attendance at Jazz Ensemble rehearsals and concerts is not optional. If the student cannot attend the rehearsal due to medical reasons it is common professional courtesy to notify the conductor (not a classmate) in advance of the rehearsal and to provide the ensemble director with an official (written) medical excuse. If it is not possible to provide the musical director with advance notice of an absence, as may be the case in extreme circumstances, the student is to see the instructor upon returning to Grande Prairie Regional College & provide an official (written) medical excuse. It is expected that the student will arrange to have their complete folder of music at the rehearsal.

*******If a student is absent for any other reason their grade will be affected negatively.** (The student will lose a percentage of their final grade for every unexcused absence.)

You are responsible for your attendance by signing in for each rehearsal. The sign-in sheet will be taken in at 6:50 by which time you are to be seated and to be warming up in preparation for the start of the rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. After 6:50 you will be marked absent unless you see the Instrumental Ensemble Assistant.

Concert Schedule: 4-6 public performances through the full session. Scheduled concerts at this time include: Fall concert November 28 (Friday), Band Christmas December 5 (Thursday). I will provide you with as much advance notice of all other concerts as is possible.

Concert Dress: Concert dress is black. Men: black pants and jacket, white shirt and straight tie with black socks. Women: black and black with dark stockings. Men may choose to add a splash of colour to their ties.