

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

**MU1490 Jazz Ensemble I 3(0-0-4) 120 Hours  
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 jazz ensemble is a performing group consisting of trumpets, trombones, saxophones, piano, guitar, bass, and drums that plays jazz 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.

**Transfer Credit**

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 jazz 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 jazz 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 jazz band, of more challenging jazz charts, of stylistic aspects of jazz band performance, and of jazz 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. Music students taking this course for credit are strongly advised to participate in the GPRC jazz combos and other community musical events.

**Assignments and Attendance**

The students who are enrolled in jazz ensemble for credit are required to play a midterm and a final playing examination during the year consisting primarily of

the playing their respective band parts in concert. 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 contribution to the success of the group during rehearsals and performances.

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.

### **Participation in Band Responsibilities**

The students taking jazz 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.

### **Additional Practice Time for Accredited Students**

Each student taking jazz 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.

### **Band Concerts**

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

### **Evaluative Criteria:**

December Concert	25
Term Work	50
Attendance, deportment, attitude, ability, performance, leadership, self-motivation, improvement, and participation in class	
April Concert	25

**Required Materials:** Instrument, music, and a pencil.