

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EL PASO
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

JAZZ BAND 1
PROF. ABEL MIRELES – CONDUCTOR
Spring 2025

**MUSA 1137
CRN: 20719**

Jazz Band 1

Time: T – Th

10:30 AM – 11:50 AM

Location:
Arts M140

Tuesdays at Recital Hall, and Thursdays at Fox Fine

Prof. Abel Mireles – Conductor
Office M241

Email: jamireles7@utep.edu

Course Description:

Participate in concert performances of historically significant and contemporary jazz orchestra repertoire as a player in the UTEP Jazz Band 1.

Course Goals & Objectives:

The primary goal of this ensemble is the preparation, performance, and preservation of jazz orchestra repertoire. Further, it is the mission of the UTEP Jazz Band 1 to:

Expand the technical, intellectual, psychological and spiritual horizons of musicians.

Create a positive music-making environment that allows the knowledge gained in the studio to be allied to ensemble performance.

Provide a balanced experience which promoted creativity, flexibility, and versatility in each musician.

Promote the highest performance standards that result in the highest level of music making.

Increase the awareness of the artistic and historical significance of music for winds and rhythm sections.

Preserve, through performance and recording, the repertoire of a medium that is uniquely American art form.

Broaden the concept of performance and teaching skills by encouraging creative thought and artistic interaction.

Encourage involvement in the performing arts for those whose career plans provide a place for music as an avocation.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Mandatory Rehearsal

Rehearsal Expectations:

Each student is expected to be in his/her chair with their instrument ready to play at the beginning of the class. Anyone not seated and prepared to perform at that time will be considered tardy.

Each student is expected to have their folder with all instructional materials and a pencil for every rehearsal. No baseball caps or similar head wear will be allowed during rehearsal. Each student is responsible for the preparation for his/her ensemble music outside of scheduled rehearsals.

Rehearsals are for developing ensemble concepts, not individual practice. In other words, *practice is learning your own part independently; rehearsal is for learning everyone else's part and how it fits with your own!* If a student has not prepared music within an acceptable timeframe, grade point reductions will result.

Course Policies:

Attendance

1. Members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM. Additional sectional rehearsals (large and small group) are required; these will be scheduled and administered by each section's principal player and/or studio faculty members.
2. Events "beyond your control" are unavoidable. However, communication with the conductor is vital. Please contact me in advance or as soon as possible afterward.

3. If you should need to speak to me about a schedule problem or other issue, please attempt to do so at a time other than just before or just after rehearsal. My email is jamireles7@utep.edu
4. If you are, for whatever reason, unable to attend, please be sure that your music is available for the other members of your section and/or stand partner.
5. Scheduled sectionals (whether large group or instrument area only) are required and will factor into the final grade and/or service award of every student in the ensemble.

Grading

Ensemble Attendance and Grading Policies:

Concert ensembles are graded using the same letter grading system as classroom courses. Concert ensemble grades are based primarily on the following four factors, all of which are considered when assigning ensemble grades:

- Performance and Preparation
- Contribution to the Ensemble
- Cooperation and Professionalism
- Attendance

Due to the importance of regular attendance by every member of the ensemble in creating a unified and consistent ensemble sound, each student's attendance record will be a major factor – but not the only factor – in determining their grade. Unexcused absences or tardies to ensemble services will cause a student to accrue grade reduction points as indicated below:

- Late to a regular rehearsal: 3 points
- Absent from a regular rehearsal: 5 points
- Late to a dress rehearsal: 5 points
- Absent from a dress rehearsal: 10 points
- Late to a performance call: 5 points
- Absent from a performance: a grade of F for the semester and a loss of scholarship/service award.

If a student receives an ensemble grade of B or less for the semester, a reduction in service award will be considered. The amount of reduction will be determined by the ensemble conductor.

Any student who misses a dress rehearsal, or who misses a week or more of rehearsals in preparation for a program, may also be removed from the concert at the conductor's discretion. Also, any student who missed a dress rehearsal or a concert may be expelled from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester. Willful neglect or ensemble responsibilities may also subject a student to expulsion from the ensemble.

Music is expensive and a valuable resource for our ensemble. Should your part/parts not be returned, your service award may be withheld.

Course Communication

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- Announcements: Major announcements will be made in class and via email. We will also establish a "WhatsApp" group each semester for urgent information.

Dress Code:

Option #1*: Black Suit, White Shirt, Black Tie, Black Shoes, Black Socks
If you do not have a real tux, a black suit or sport coat will work with black pants, White Shirt and Black Tie.

Option #2*: All Black. Pants or Dresses are both acceptable, though dresses should fall below the knee. Black Shoes. No accessories of other color.

*UTEF seeks to be an inclusive institution, and this classroom is no exception. If you need to discuss options for attire, please come discuss this with Prof. Mireles at your convenience.

Course Drop Policy

According to UTEP Catalog, "At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of "W" will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of

excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

Concert and Dress Rehearsal Dates:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dress Rehearsal | Wednesday, February 19 | 6:00-9:30 PM |
| CONCERT | Thursday, February 20 | 7:30 PM |
| | Call Time: | 7:00 PM |
| | | |
| CONCERT | Saturday, March 1 | 5:00 PM |
| Dress Rehearsal | Monday, April 14 | 6:30-9:00 PM |
| CONCERT | Tuesday, April 15 | 7:30 PM |
| | | |
| CONCERT (Special Guest) | Sunday, April 27 | 7:30-10:30 |
| Not at UTEP | Call time: | TBD |

The concert on April 27 is an extra concert that still needs to be confirmed but please pencil it in. This will be with a special guest and in collaboration with local nonprofit, The Jazz Exchange at a local venue. The band will open up the concert with the guest sitting in on a couple of charts, then followed by The Jazz Exchange Big Band with special guest.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Course Resources



Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used. In fact, development of Artificial Intelligence which results in students playing better in time, in key, in tune, and with awareness of musical lines other than their own should be not only be used, but should be trademarked and monetized.