

Sam Houston State University Wind Ensemble

Matthew McInturf, conductor

Course Syllabus for Wind Ensemble, Spring 2017

MUEN 2116, 4116 and 5112 (Graduate Ensemble)

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Office Hours: MW 2:00-4:00 pm; other times by appointment

Associate Conductor: Brian Gibbs

Graduate Associate Conductors: Lindsey Langford, Kristofer Mosley and William Skembos

Student Assistants: Katie Knight (Library), Cameron Price (Logistics)

Objective:

The study and performance of a wide variety of repertoire for Wind Ensemble. There will be a particular emphasis on contemporary literature to complement the program of study in other ensembles. The ensemble is a laboratory to apply the musical skills being developed in the applied studio and the academic classes.

Enrollment:

The Wind Ensemble is a select group of wind and percussion performers seeking the highest artistic standards of performance. Membership in the Wind Ensemble is open to all Sam Houston State University students regardless of major, but is selected by audition and with the permission of the conductor. Students who are selected for the Wind Ensemble are expected to study their instrument in applied lessons and maintain their academic standing.

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Rehearsals:

The scheduled rehearsal times for the SHSU Wind Ensemble are MWF Noon to 1:50 pm. (See Rehearsal and Assignment Schedule).

Dress Rehearsals are listed in the performance schedule and are in addition to the regularly scheduled rehearsal. Dress Rehearsals are treated as a performance for grading purposes (see Attendance).

Rehearsals are to be used for the coordination of prepared parts. The members of the ensemble are expected to prepare to the best of their ability and rehearse in an efficient and professional manner. A professional commitment to these standards, to the ensemble and to its members is essential for successful rehearsals.

Performances:

A major goal of ensemble membership and rehearsal is to have musically successful performances. No ensemble is successful due to the efforts of only one or two of its members. It is the result of the work of all of its members in collaboration.

Performing is a skill that can only be acquired by performing. Performances reflect on the ensemble, the individual members and the University. Please note the attendance policy concerning performances.

Attendance:

The following policy is standard for all major ensembles at Sam Houston State University and was developed by the conductors of those ensembles to insure uniformity and fairness of student policies.

An ensemble is dependent upon the successful participation of all of its members. Consequently, all rehearsals and performances - whether during the regularly scheduled class time or not - are required. Unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty and may affect ensemble membership and financial assistance.

Any member of an ensemble who misses a dress rehearsal or a performance will receive a failing grade and be removed from the ensemble.

Three points will be deducted from the student's numerical grade for each unexcused absence. One point will be deducted from the student's numerical grade for each tardy.

Recognizing that there are legitimate reasons to miss a rehearsal, an absence may be excused for grading purposes by permission of the conductor. **All requests for an**

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excused absence will be made in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to the absence.

Emergencies will be considered on a case by case basis. No work related absences will be excused.

Since the purpose of rehearsal is to coordinate parts, rehearsal time cannot in reality be made up. However, any rehearsal time that is missed, excused or unexcused, will be made up with the conductor of the group at an arranged time. Two tardies will equal an absence for grading purposes. Failing to notify the conductor about these issues or not following procedure could result in the immediate dismissal from the ensemble. **NOTE: Notifying the office or a faculty member of an absence does not constitute an excused absence.**

Rehearsal and Assignment Schedule:

The Rehearsal Schedule will be sent to members of the Wind Ensemble by email prior to the upcoming rehearsal. **Please check your email before every rehearsal, the schedule is not final until the rehearsal begins.** Students are responsible to prepare the scheduled works. Other specific assignments will be made in rehearsal.

Students are responsible to prepare the music outside of the scheduled rehearsal times. The applied lessons are specifically not for preparation of ensemble music, except in the case of solo passages. All solo passages should be performed for the applied faculty. Because the ensemble is a laboratory for the applied and academic classes, students are expected to do well in those classes as a component part of ensemble participation.

Materials:

Folder and music will be supplied. Students should contact the librarian to resolve problems with parts. The folders and music are the property of the university and students will be assessed a fee for lost, damaged or abused materials. Students are expected to bring assigned parts, any necessary equipment - including the appropriate mutes and pencils to rehearsal.

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Students are encouraged to make appropriate marks on parts in pencil. Measure numbers are required for efficient rehearsal. Students will be held responsible for the condition or loss of rental parts.

Students will be responsible for their own concert attire as follows:

Gentlemen:

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black tuxedo (not tails)

white vest

white bow tie

white shirt

black socks

black dress shoes

Ladies:

black floor length dress (formal pants are acceptable for appropriate instruments)

sleeves are optional

black shoes

Visitors In The Classroom

The class will be host to visitors at numerous times during the semester. These can include guest artists, guest conductors, faculty, parents, potential students and other classes. All courtesies should be extended to visitors at all times.

When visitors are present, proceed with class as usual. Do not allow yourself to be distracted by visitors walking around the room. Remember that the reputation of the ensemble and the school is reflected in the quality of rehearsal perceived by guests and visitors. Please conduct public rehearsal with this in mind.

Any ensemble member that would like to bring a visitor to class should obtain permission from the instructor ahead of time.

Proper Classroom Demeanor/Rules of Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. The use of tuning applications on smart phones during rehearsal time is acceptable. Phones should not be used for communication or any other purposes during rehearsals and performances, e.g., texting, social networking, internet surfing, photography, recordings, etc.

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Important Health Concerns

Here is a link to our website that details important health concerns, please refer to the section under **NASM Student Information Sheets**:

<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/current-students/index.html>

Special Notification for all students:

"Any student who may have any unobservable disability, such as a learning disability, should report to the Counseling Center, located in the Lee Drain Building North Annex, for assistance. Appropriate documentation of any claimed disability is the student's responsibility. According to Sam Houston State University administrative policy, 'Medical or psychological records are required to be provided by the student for verification of an unobservable disability, such as a learning disability.' If you have any questions regarding this issue, contact the Counseling Center."

Each student working in collaboration with the SHSU Counseling Center with this issue should speak directly with the conductor in order that the conductor and student performer may resolve any problems or reduce any barriers (seen or unseen, known or unknown) to the student to assist in the successful completion of the work in this course.