

Brian Gibbs, Associate Professor

Course Syllabus, Spring 2018

Symphonic Band, MUEN 2116-02 (CRN 21127) and MUEN 4116-02 (CRN 21226)

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

Objective:

The study and performance of a wide variety of repertoire for concert band. The ensemble is a laboratory to apply the musical skills learned in the applied studio and the academic classes.

Class Meetings:

The scheduled time is MWF noon-1:50 a.m. in Music Building room 201

Enrollment:

The Symphonic Band is a select group of wind and percussion performers seeking the highest artistic standards of performance. Membership in the Symphonic Band 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 Symphonic Band are expected to study their instrument in applied lessons and maintain their academic standing.

Rehearsals:

The scheduled rehearsal times for the SHSU Symphonic Band 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 for the coordination of prepared parts. The members of the ensemble are expected to prepare to the best of their ability and rehearse efficiently and professionally.

A professional commitment to these standards, to the group and its members, is essential for successful rehearsals.

Performances:

A primary 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.

The process of performing is an essential part of developing high-level performance skills. 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 ensure 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 grade for each tardy.

Recognizing that there are legitimate reasons to miss a rehearsal, some absences may be excused for grading purposes by permission of the conductor. All requests for an excused absence will be made in writing at least two (2) weeks before 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 posted on the Symphonic Band Board or distributed by email or text. Please check the schedule before every rehearsal, because 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 for preparing 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 part of ensemble participation.

Materials:

Music will be supplied. Students should contact a graduate assistant or band librarian to resolve problems with parts. Students are expected to bring assigned sheet music, any necessary equipment, including the appropriate mutes and pencils, to rehearsal.

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 also be responsible for their concert attire as follows:

Gentlemen:

black tuxedo (not tails)
white vest
white bow tie
white tux shirt
black socks
black dress shoes

Ladies:

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

The following is Sam Houston State University official policy as stated in the student handbook:

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."

University Academic Honesty Policy

You will be held accountable for honest behavior in this class. Likewise, honest test-taking and homework procedures will be enforced. Refer to the SHSU student guidelines handbook for what constitutes "cheating." The Academic Policy Statement 810213 for Academic Dishonesty at SHSU is located at <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Students With Disabilities Policy

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely because of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities; you must initiate accommodations for disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, age discrimination, and religion. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.shsu.edu/titleix/>

Religious Holy Days

If you must miss a class because it is your religious Holy day, I must be notified of your intended absence not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester. Please follow the University's procedure found at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

NASM Requirements for Notification of Related Health Issues in Music

NASM (National Accreditation of Schools of Music) requests that all students have access to three articles on health-related issues:

- Neuromusculoskeletal Health and Vocal Health
<http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp?page=NASM-PAMA%20Advisories%20on%20Neuromusculoskeletal%20and%20Vocal%20Health>
- Hearing Health
http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp?page=NASM-PAMA_Hearing_Health