

Santa Monica High School Jazz Band- M78
2011-2012 Course Syllabus
Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30

Instructor: Tom Whaley

Office Number: 310-450-8338 ext. 70287

Office Location: Santa Monica High School band room

Office Hours: By Appointment

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Course Description: Participation in the Jazz Ensemble gives students the opportunity to rehearse and perform both new and established works in the repertoire of the genre. Students are also exposed to techniques of jazz improvisation, jazz style characteristics, and elements of jazz formal structure. There will be a minimum of three public concerts throughout the year and one of the concerts will feature a prominent jazz composer/performer. This course is open by audition only.

Course Objectives/Outcomes (See Course Outline of Record and Student Learning Outcomes for Your Department): The learning goals for M78 include the understanding of current and professionally accepted instruction in jazz performance and pedagogy using the medium of the "Big Band. Instruction focuses on the fundamentals of jazz style, intonation, articulation, technique development, elements of overall musicality, exposure to jazz ensemble literature in the standard repertoire.

Students will demonstrate proper standards of rehearsal etiquette, learn to improvise or improve their ability to do so and successfully complete scheduled concerts and festivals throughout each semester.

Course Materials: There is no required textbook for this course. Recordings and/or other information may be made available to students through the Music Library or the instructor. Students will need an instrument and if they do not, an instrument can be provided by the Santa Monica High School music department in most cases. When appropriate, students are responsible for disposing of educational/fair use copies immediately after their temporary use for rehearsals.

Additional Expectations:

- Students are expected to spend time as necessary practicing their assigned parts.
- Students are expected to complete listening and other assignments as given by the instructor.
- Students are expected to be present and on time at rehearsal time. In case of illness, the instructor should be notified by telephone and/or email (twhaley@smmusd.org) prior to rehearsal. For emergency absences, the instructor should be notified by telephone and, if possible, by email as soon as possible. Other absences should be discussed with the instructor at least one week prior to the absence.
- Students are expected to attend all ensemble concerts, recitals by students, and other events as assigned by the instructor.

Grading:	Your grade will be based on the following scores:		
Test 1:	100 points	Grading Scale:	460-600 points = A Excellent
Test 2:	100 points		420-459 points = B Good
Final Exam:	200 points		380-419 points = C Satisfactory
			340-379 points = D Poor
Homework:	100 points		Below 340 pts = F Failing
Special Project:	50 points		
Quizzes:	50 points		
Total Possible Points:	600 points		

DATE OF FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, 6/16/10

Unexcused absences after the first one will result in a drop of 1 letter grade per absence. Lateness to rehearsals will be reflected in the rehearsal grade. An unexcused absence to a dress rehearsal or concert will result in a failing grade for the semester.

INSTRUCTOR METHODS

We each have roles that will facilitate your understanding of the course material. My role is to aid you by demonstrating and discussing the various methods of improvisation, articulation, phrasing and dynamics.

Your role is to come to the class **prepared**. Students are expected to come to class equipped (instrument, music and a pencil for every rehearsal). Preparation for rehearsals, successful participation in concerts and other performances, and improvement over the course of study is extremely important in terms of success in this class. Failure to adequately prepare, or other failure to meet the expectations listed above or addressed by the instructor will result in deductions from the lesson grade.

Students are encouraged to ask questions. The only wrong question is an unasked question; if asking that question would have improved your understanding. I will attempt to answer all student questions during the rehearsal except when it is apparent that the student has not been paying attention. I am also available during office hours, via telephone, e-mail and by appointment.

CLASS DECORUM

Students are expected to come to class on time, set up their chair, stand and begin warming up on their instrument. Once class has started, students must avoid any necessary conversation and raise their hand to express a concern, use the restroom or ask a question. No gum, food or drinks other than bottled water will be permitted in the band room. Students will also be expected to use good playing posture throughout the length of class. **TURN OFF CELLULAR PHONES, TEXT MESSAGERS, ETC.**

UPON ENTERING CLASS!!!

At the end of class, students will put their instruments/equipment away and leave the classroom after all music and equipment has been put away.

Currently Scheduled Recitals/Concerts:

2011-12 Samohi Jazz Ensemble Performance Dates

- To be announced

HONOR CODE & CODE OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

As part of the enrollment process, you affirmed the following statement: “In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Santa Monica College Honor Code, Code of Academic Conduct, and Student Conduct Code. I will conduct myself honorable as a responsible member of the SMC community in all endeavors I pursue.”

Sample

Honest and ethical students are protected in this class. The SMC Honor Code and Code of Academic Integrity, printed in the General Catalog, remind students of their responsibility to behave honestly and ethically. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these codes. Please be extremely careful that you do not engage in any behavior that could even be construed as cheating. Outside of class, students are allowed to study together. However, copying another student's homework is not acceptable. **If the instructor determines that students have “relied” too heavily on each other in preparing homework or any other project, the students may be assigned no credit. Future occurrences could result in academic disciplinary action.** During an exam, talking to another student, looking at another student's paper, using a calculator w/business functions, using cheat notes, etc. are not permitted.

Sample

I will vigorously pursue any suspected cases of plagiarism, cheating or other violations of the SMC Code of Academic Conduct, whether completed or merely attempted. Even a first offense of academic dishonesty will result in a score of zero on that exam, and an Academic Dishonesty Report form will be filed with the Campus Disciplinarian.

EXAM POLICY

Comment: Give policies for taking exams

Example: Arrive on time for exams or risk missing them. Once a test or exam has begun, students may not leave until the exam is completed and turned in. You won't be allowed to take an exam if other students have completed it and left the classroom before you arrive. If you arrive after the exam has begun, you may not ask other students for pencils, scantrons or other supplies.

Comment: Explain policies for make up examinations (if any).

Example: MAKEUPS OR EARLY EXAMS ARE NOT GIVEN. PLEASE INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IF THERE ARE ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.

Alternative: There are no make up exams. **If you do not take a midterm exam** then, in a first such instance, your score for that exam will be the same as your score on the final exam. **If you take all five midterm exams**, and your final exam score is not your lowest exam score, then your final exam score will replace your lowest midterm exam score. Missing additional exams results in scores of zero on those exams.

ATTENDANCE

As with any course, it is crucial that you do not miss any classes! Subject matter covered in the book and in lectures may appear on quizzes and tests. If you are late or absent, you are responsible for submitting

homework before the assigned deadline and for keeping abreast of lecture topics. Excessively tardy or absent students may be dropped from the class.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Sample

Students may drop this course and receive a “W” at any time **prior to the end of the __th week**. After the __th week, students may not be able to receive a “W” should they choose to drop. **Students are responsible for withdrawing from a class and must not expect faculty to initiate withdrawal procedures for them.. (Attach a link to the SMC website.)**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Sample

I am happy to make academic adjustments for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities if this applies to you. The Center for Students with Disabilities is located in Room 101 of the Admissions/Student Services Complex, located on the north side of Main campus, next to Admissions. For more information, call (310) 434-4265 or (310) 434-4273 (TDD)

ASSIGNMENTS

Comment: Explain the policy for submitting Homework or Other Assignments (Projects, In-Class or Group Assignments) (how/when to submit, the amount of credit for assignments, policy for late or make-up assignments, etc.)

Homework

Sample

Homework is due at the beginning of the class period noted in this syllabus. Homework may be turned in one class period late for partial credit. Students will not receive credit for homework submitted more than one class period late. In my experience, students who keep up with the homework generally perform better on exams. It is strongly recommended that the student keep all graded assignments through the end of the course.

Other Assignments

Sample – In-Class Assignments

You must be present to receive credit for In-Class Assignments. You can not “make up” In-Class Assignments, if you are tardy or absent.

Sample – Group Assignments

For group assignments, all members of the group will receive the same grade, unless otherwise specified.

Sample – Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be awarded during this class.

Alternative Sample – Extra Credit

The instructor will inform you of opportunities for extra credit during this class.

Other Topics

Emergency Evacuation Procedures: Where to go and what to do in the event of an emergency. Consult with your department head for information to be included in this section.