

## **Sam Houston State University – School of Music Course Syllabus**

Course: ENS 115.01 JAZZ ENSEMBLE (1 credit hour)  
Semester: Spring semester, 2008  
Classroom: Music Building – Room 205  
Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:20 p.m.  
Director: Dr. Rod Cannon  
Phone: (936) 294-3995 (office)  
(936) 662-5620 (cell)  
Office: Room 226, Music Building  
Email: [RodCannon@Suddenlink.net](mailto:RodCannon@Suddenlink.net)  
Office Hrs: by appointment: call 662-5620 or email RodCannon@Suddenlink.net

### **PERFORMANCE DATES:**

- Concert I: February 12, 2008, CJ Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
(Will involve a dress rehearsal in CJ the night before, Feb. 11, 5-9 p.m.)
- Concert II: SHSU Annual Jazz Festival, LSC Ballroom, (All Day & Evening)  
(Will involve a dress rehearsal with the guest artist, Pete Barenbregge, on the night before, times to be announced at a later date. Also, the guest artist will be presenting clinics on Friday, the day before the festival, @3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. All should attend.)
- Concert III: May 6, 2008, CJ Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
(Will involve a dress rehearsal with the guest artist, Rocky Winslow on the night before, 5:00-9:00 p.m.)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Jazz Ensemble is the premier jazz performance ensemble for the School of Music at Sam Houston State University. The Jazz Ensemble employs a diverse spectrum, of repertoire consisting of the most current contemporary jazz compositions as well as the rich performance tradition of jazz standards written and arranged for the jazz medium. Various Jazz styles, traditions, and procedures will be addressed. Improvement of Jazz Improvisation techniques will be encouraged.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Foster an environment for the study and application of the jazz language in both performance and educational situations.
- 2) Learn and become familiar with the diverse musical styles in the jazz idiom.
- 3) Encourage student compositions/arrangements in the jazz style.
- 4) Serve as a vehicle for the art of jazz improvisation.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

An ensemble such as this is dependent upon the successful participation of ALL of its member at all times. 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 or financial assistance.

Recognizing that there are legitimate reasons to miss a rehearsal, an absence may be excused by permission of the director. Emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis. No work-related absences will be excused. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that his/her music is provided any time he/she has to be absent. The student must communicate with the director... office staff or "buddies" are NOT suitable avenues of communication. Use the director's cell or email to communicate all attendance problems prior to the event of absence.

## **CONCERT DRESS:**

Black Dress Pants

Black Shoes

Black Sox

Black Shirt (your choice: crew-neck, mock-neck, turtle-neck, dress-shirt.)

Sport Coat: Preferably in gray or black tones or blends, although, any "dark" shade will do.

(\*Note: In warm performance venues, the option for coat removal will be determined.)

## **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES:**

An ensemble of our nature is often called upon to perform, sometimes on rather short notice. Do not be surprised if other dates are added to our calendar. I will do my best to sort-out the acceptance of those engagements with regard to their relative importance to your development and our commitment to the School of Music and the University, but we absolutely MUST do our very best anytime we perform. That, of course, means that we may be called upon to "shuffle" our schedules to comply. This dilemma sort of "comes with the territory."

## **SECTION REHEARSALS:**

Each section is expected to have regular section rehearsals (to be discussed in class). Section Leaders are responsible for canvassing their sections to determine an appropriate and acceptable time for these "regular" section rehearsals.