

The Duke Ellington School Of The Arts
Jazz Theory/Combo/Band
Davey S. Yarborough-director

Course description/Syllabus

Code: UD3/06

Grades: 9-12

M-W-F

Credit 1:00

one year

Office hours: Appointment

Offers the study and performance of small jazz ensemble literature, development of relevant styles, improvisational techniques, concepts and appropriate stage decorum. Instructional levels will involve the use of grade II through VI repertoire.

Pre-requisites: Students in this class are exclusively selected by the director and remain only at his discretion. Any students in this class receiving a grade of “F” in any class may not be allowed to perform live concerts with this group. Students in this ensemble not making the honor roll will be put on probation for one advisory. Failure to achieve honor roll two consecutive advisory will render the student un able to perform or travel with the ensemble until honor roll status is achieved.

Requirements: Students are to perform at all concerts, recitals, scheduled rehearsals and festivals as these are evaluation activities. Any student not on honor roll status must interview with the director, parents, and teachers of failed courses within two weeks of report card receipt to discuss probationary status. Failure to meet will not stop the probationary process. Unscheduled rehearsals may be required for special performances and will be announced with as much advance notice as possible.)

This class is a performing group that will have opportunities to perform and /or compete in various venues through outside jazz organizations. This requires the commitment to being available for travel during class time, after school and sometimes during school vacation days. Professional performers and clinicians will make themselves available to the combo class throughout this school year. This may include after school and weekend clinics based on the artists availability. Advance notice will be given when these events occur.

Memorization of repertoire is a requirement for this class.

Performance dress will be Dark suit with dress shirt and tie with polished dress shoes.

Combo lab rehearsals: These rehearsals are generally scheduled at 7:00am, one day per week.

Materials: All students are to maintain a notebook for repertoire and a second one for written work. Each jazz combo student will be required to submit one essay or research paper each semester. All students are responsible for maintaining their instruments and all accessories needed for performance. Oversized instruments and secondary instruments may be provided to students needing them due to performance repertoire.

Course outline:

The student will:

1. Play and write major, minor, dominant, blues, diminished, pentatonic, whole tone scales with the understanding of the Plagal modes.
2. Play and write the arpeggios for the following chord families in all keys: major, minor, dominant, diminished and augmented.
3. play jazz standards in various styles: Blues, Dixieland, Swing, Be-bop, fusion and avant-garde.
4. Improvise a solo in the style of the standards studied in class.
5. Transcribe a solo from a recording.
6. Identify 10 jazz artists who perform on the student's major instrument.
7. Demonstrate responsibility and commitment to performing jazz through regular attendance, participation and preparation.
8. Follow all directives found in the student and community handbook.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on attitude, repertoire, concert/recital performance and décor, class participation, attendance, behavior and all written assignments, research papers, essays, performance and written exams. Failure to perform in any competition, concert or festival can result in failure of this course..

Grades will be calculated as follows: Participation-10% Practice and Application – 50% Assessments – 40%

- **Grading percentages for assignments within each category will vary by arts department based on the processes and assessments specific to each discipline. It is a requirement to pass a course that students participate/attend all rehearsals and performances as these are also assessments.**

I have read and fully understand the above course description for the jazz combo class.

Student: _____ date: _____

Parent/ legal guardian _____ date: _____