

Prerequisites

Participation in these ensembles is open to all students with permission of the instructor.

Purposes

Small ensemble opportunities are made available to ULM students for the following purposes:

- To give music students the opportunity to undertake somewhat self-directed performance activities, thus expanding their creativity, resourcefulness, and musicianship.
- To develop ensemble playing skills, especially regarding balance, articulation, interpretation, and intonation.
- To prepare more difficult literature than encountered in larger ULM ensembles, thus expanding the students' technical performing abilities.
- To present concerts of the highest quality both on and off campus.
- If possible, to represent ULM in regional, national, and international competitions.

Instructional Methods

This course will consist primarily of corporate playing work by ensemble members. The students will work unsupervised for most rehearsals, with the instructor present for a weekly "coaching" session. During those sessions, the instructor will give verbal commentary and suggestions for improvement, and will occasionally demonstrate these suggestions on his instrument.

Attendance and Grading

All ensembles depend upon the consistent presence and dedication of EACH member in order to be successful. Each student will receive a grade for each rehearsal. Timely attendance will result in a grade of "A" (12), tardy attendance without excuse will result in a grade of "C" (6), and unexcused absence will result in a grade of "F" (0).

If an absence or tardy becomes necessary for medical or other legitimate reasons, please contact the instructor and other ensemble members, in advance if possible, to be excused.

The weekly rehearsal grades will be averaged to determine the final grade. A twelve (12)-point scale will determine these letter grades as follows:

"A" (12)	"B+" (10)	"B-" (8)	"C" (6)	"D+" (4)	"D-" (2)
"A-" (11)	"B" (9)	"C+" (7)	"C-" (5)	"D" (3)	"F" (0)

Additionally, an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance will result in a semester grade of "F."

Materials

At the beginning of the semester each student will receive a folder containing his or her assigned parts. If this folder is lost the student will be responsible for replacing both the folder and all of the parts therein, at his or her expense.

Performances

On and/or off-campus performances will be scheduled during the course of the semester. These will be planned well in advance and will be scheduled at the most convenient times possible. The instructor reserves the right to schedule extra rehearsals in advance of a scheduled performance. See above for penalties for absence from a performance.

Communication

The effective functioning of these ensembles requires more frequent communication between instructor and students than is necessary in many other courses. Each student is expected to ensure that the instructor has an accurate and functioning email address for him or her, and to check email regularly for communications from the instructor. Not checking email is **not** a valid excuse for failure to execute instructions or respond to information received from the instructor via email.

Physical Contact Clause

In teaching and developing the physical aspects of playing the instrument it may become necessary in rare instances for some limited physical contact between the instructor and the student to take place, so that the instructor can correctly evaluate what the student is doing physically while playing and diagnose any problems. Such contact will occur very infrequently, if ever, and will be strictly professional in nature. The instructor will inform the student immediately before contact will take place, and will ask if the student is comfortable with this method of diagnosis before proceeding. If the student is uncomfortable with such contact taking place alternative forms of diagnosis will be used.

General Policies, Procedures, and Information

In addition to the information specified above, information in the ULM Student Policy Manual and Organizational Handbook (<http://www.ulm.edu/studentpolicy>) applies in this course.

In case of an in-class emergency, the instructor will provide information on how to proceed.

For information on Student Services, including the Student Success Center, Counseling Center, Special Needs, and Student Health Services, please visit <http://www.ulm.edu/studentaffairs>.