Ball State University • College of Fine Arts • School of Music

MUSP 231 15: Small Ensemble (Jazz Combo)
Fall Semester 2026
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mark Buselli
Classroom: MU 117
Office: MU 117D
Office Phone: (765) 285-5436
Office Hours: by appointment
Email Address: mbuselli@bsu.edu
Meeting Time: W@5pm (Wednesday 5:00pm-5:50pm)
Credit Hours: 1

Required Course Materials:
Bring your instrument to each rehearsal, your music, a pencil for performance notes, and a Real Book in your key

Supplementary Texts/CDs/Apps:
The Real Book: Sixth Edition (and Vols. II+III) Hal Leonard Corporation, 2004
Aebersold Play along CDs (Bracken Library); iReal Pro app

Course Description:
A jazz chamber ensemble focusing on group interaction, improvisation, and music making of the highest possible calibre. Repertoire will be drawn from standard tunes and original compositions/arrangements. Students are encouraged to bring in original compositions and arrangements for the ensemble to read and possibly perform in concert.
Prerequisites: By successful audition.

Course Objectives:
Improvement of jazz performance skills in the following areas: improvisation, tone, intonation, dynamics, group balance/blend, rhythm, technical facility, personal interpretation, style, performance practice, and stage presence.

Grading: Judged by the student's cumulative improvement as an individual and group performer (culminating in a concert performance), punctuality, and attendance record.

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Grading Weights:
Attendance (20%)
Cumulative Improvement (60%)
Combo Concert Performance (20%)

Grade scale: A (94-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (66-69); D (60-65); F (0-59)

Concert dates: November 3rd and 10th @5:30pm Hahn Hall (formal dress)

Attendance Policy: attendance is required at each rehearsal. If you cannot attend a rehearsal due to illness or other legitimate circumstances, let me know in advance, **get a sub and make sure the sub has your music!**

Tardiness: 4 tardies or chronic attendance issues will result in possible removal from the ensemble.

Rules of Conduct:
Please turn off your smart phone or place it on Do Not Disturb mode during rehearsals. *When the director is speaking individually to a member of the ensemble during rehearsal, please refrain from playing or talking in the background.*

University Statement:
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression:
In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

Student Academic Ethics Policy:
Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of

scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's academic integrity website (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy.

Generative AI Statement:
All work conducted and/or submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the Ball State University's Student Academic Ethics Policy. You may not collaborate with or make use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI applications at any time to develop materials submitted in this course.