2026 Ball State University College of Fine Arts/School of Music/ Music Performance

Senior Project – Master Syllabus – MUSP 494 - 15

Instructor: Mark Buselli

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Schedule varies for all students
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Office hours: Friday 9-11am, and by appointment

I. Course Description

This course is a 3-credit hour class designed to let the student's creativity and organizational skills come together to produce a professional recording of the student's musical ideas.

II. Course Objectives/Student Learning Objectives

Students will utilize everything they have learned to compose/arrange their music for various configurations. They will acquire the musicians, organize the rehearsals, book the studio, critique the rough mixes, fix the rough mixes, sit in on the final mix, get artwork and write the recording notes for this project. The goal is to have a professional product at their senior recital.

III. Rationale

A professional "calling card" is a must in today's world of music. The student can use this product to get into a graduate program, for musical employment, to sell at live events or stream online.

IV. Course Expectations

All music and arrangements should be started by summer of the senior year. They should all be completed by the end of September. Rehearsals should start in late October after the instructor goes through all of the compositions/arrangements. The studio should be booked the FIRST week of school for the week AFTER final exams in December. A $400 fee is required for the engineer/studio time/ mixes. This is in line with what students pay for an accompanist for a senior recital. The student will have the rough mixes over the Christmas breaks. They will go through and note all changes that need to be made. The changes will be made during the first week of school in January. The studio will have to be booked for this as well.

V. Performance Requirements

These compositions/arrangements will be part of the student's recital Spring semester.

VI. Grading

An "A" student … Promptly takes care of all things in the Course Expectations paragraph. They are in constant communication with their instructor and provide weekly progress reports with evidence of work done. A journal is required to document everything done.

A "B" student … Takes care of all things in the Course Expectations paragraph. They are in constant communication with their instructor. They sometimes have a week with no work done towards the project.

A "C" student … Takes care of some of the things in the Course Expectations paragraph. The instructor has to step in and take care of some things. Lack of communication and sporadic work towards the project.

A "D" student… There are no D's – that is failing for this project.

An "F" student … Does not take care of details in the Course Expectations paragraph. The recording does not happen and the student fails out of the program.

This document is a contract between you (the student) and Mark Buselli (the instructor).
Signing this indicates that you have read the entire syllabus and grade explanation. It indicates that you understand the information outlined in it.

I _____ have read the syllabus and grade explanation for Jazz Improvisation lessons at Ball State University and agree to adhere to the policies spelled out in them.

Signed _____ on this date _____

Received by Mark Buselli _____ on this date _____

BSU INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES POLICY: Cell phone usage/texting during rehearsal

1) Cell phones/smart phones are not permitted at any time during rehearsal. Cell phones/smart phones should be powered down (or silenced) prior to rehearsal.
2) Cell phones/smart phones should be packed away during rehearsal; they are not to be put on stands or in sight at any time during rehearsal.
3) A student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each infraction of this policy.

This policy is in effect immediately. Your instructor will discuss this policy during the first day of class; this constitutes a "verbal warning."

Should you have any questions about this policy, please consult the instructor.

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. 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 as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found here.

If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to see me during office hours.

University policies regarding academic honesty are available in the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities, available at the following website:
http://cms.bsu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentRights/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentCode.aspx