

**Sul Ross State University  
Mariachi and Jazz Ensemble Syllabus  
MUS 1113**

**Instructor:** Chris Dobbins

**Office:** FAB 103

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Phone:** 432-837-8018

**Email:** [cdobbins@sulross.edu](mailto:cdobbins@sulross.edu)

**Class Meeting Time:** MW 6:00 – 8:50 pm, FAB 100

### **Course Description**

A study of literature for Mariachi Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble, including intensive study of styles, techniques, and performance practices. Students will gain experience in large groups and small combos and perform several times over the course of the semester.

### **Textbook and Materials**

Students are responsible to provide their own instruments and accessories or to arrange this with the director. Music to be studied will be checked out to students. Students must return all materials and equipment checked out prior to the end of the semester or will have a hold on their records and will be financially responsible for replacing any materials not checked-in.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate improved ensemble playing ability.
2. Demonstrate improves sight-reading ability appropriate to individual skill level.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate historical and musical style appropriate to literature studied.
4. Discuss one or more new styles of music, one or more new composers, and one or more new pedagogical techniques covered during the semester.

### **Music Program Learning Objectives**

This course is a required course for a major in instrumental music. As such, it helps the student to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes for the major. These learning outcomes include:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
2. the ability to prepare appropriate program notes.
3. the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

4. a general knowledge of music history

### **ADA Needs**

It is Sul Ross University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in BAB 206 or call 837-8203.

### **Rehearsal Policies**

1. Students are expected to attend each rehearsal and to arrive on time. Excessive absences and late arrivals impact the ability of the ensemble to rehearse effectively and may negatively impact the student grade.
2. Students are expected to have all necessary materials at each rehearsal. This includes all instruments, music, accessories, and a working pencil.
3. If you must miss rehearsal, please inform the director no less than 36 hours in advance so your absence can be planned for.

### **Attendance Policy**

Since we have relatively few class meetings, and a great amount of material to cover, attendance is required. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor prior to an absence, or as soon as possible following. Work conflicts are treated as unexcused absences and are not tolerated. Unexcused absences will be treated as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Absence: Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Absence: Lowering of earned grade by one full letter and revocation of scholarship monies
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Absence: Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4<sup>th</sup> Absence: Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5<sup>th</sup> Absence: Expulsion from class

### **Tardy Policy**

Being late to class is disruptive to other students, the teacher, and the learning process. If you enter after the start of class, you are tardy. The start of class is defined as the point at which the teacher begins teaching. Your first tardy is free. After that, every two tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence, and will fall under the attendance policy in effecting your grade. If you are tardy for what you believe is an excusable reason, please speak with me in person after class.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Class time is limited and use of cell phones causes unneeded distraction to the learning process. Therefore, cell phone use during class is strictly prohibited, and repeated violation of this policy will have an effect on your grade. The following are the grade repercussions for violation of this policy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Warning

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense – Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense – Expulsion from class and revocation of scholarship monies

### **Professional Communication Policy**

All communication with me should be done via email or my office phone number, both of which are listed at the top of the syllabus, or in person. You will be expected to check your email on a regular basis for communications from me. Facebook is not an acceptable form of professional communication.

### **Dress**

Performance dress will be:

Men – Clean Black Shirt (preferably long sleeved), Black Pants/Slacks (No jeans or denim material), Black Belt, Black Socks, Black Shoes.

Women – Clean Black Blouse (No spaghetti straps or tank-tops), Black Slacks or skirt (No Denim, skirts should be at least knee length), appropriate black socks and shoes, conservative make-up and jewelry.

### **Grading**

Grades are not given, they are EARNED. Students will have the opportunity to earn points in the following areas:

*Daily Rehearsal Attendance, Preparation, and Participation – 5 pts per day*

Prompt arrival, have all necessary materials and music, positive attitude and willingness to work hard.

*Performances – 50 pts per performance*

Prompt arrival at call time, have all necessary materials and music, proper dress

*Contract Return – 100 points*

In order to ensure understanding, please read this syllabus, get any pertinent questions answered, sign, and return to Mr. or Ms. Dobbins no later than the beginning of rehearsal on September 2. Returning the contract on-time results in earning 100 points, turning it in late results in losing 25 points per day until it is turned in.

Letter grades will be based on the following percentages:

90-100 = A = Excellent

80-89 = B = Good

70-79 = C = Average

60-69 = D = Poor

Below 60 = F = Failure

I = Incomplete

## Calendar

The following are known dates, excluding rehearsals, that are important for the Mariachi Ensemble. Dates may be added, but only with reasonable advanced notice. If you have questions regarding the calendar, please consult the director.

- Aug 25 – First Day of Classes
- Aug 27 – Music Major Meeting, 5:30 pm in FAB 200
- Sept 10 – Winds/Percussion Studio Class, FAB 100, 5:30 pm
- Sept 20 – Home Football game at Jackson Field, 8:00 am call
- Sept 24 – Studio Class, FAB 200, 5:30 pm
- Sept 27 – Home Football game at Jackson Field, 8:00 am call
- Sept 27 – *Tres Vidas* Musical Theater Presentation, Marshall Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- Sept 29 – Marching Invitational, All Day, Jackson Field – NO WIND ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL
- Sept 1 – Winds/Percussion Studio Class, FAB 100, 5:30 pm
- Oct 5 – Move equipment to Marshall Auditorium, Meet in Band Hall, 3:00 pm
- Oct 9 – Wind Ensemble/Concert Choir Concert, Marshall Auditorium, 6:00 pm call
- Oct 11 - Home Football game at Jackson Field, 8:00 am call
- Oct 12 – Alpine Community Band Concert, Marshall Auditorium, 3:00 pm
- Oct 15 – Studio Class, FAB 200, 5:30 pm
- Oct 29 – Winds/Percussion Studio Class, FAB 100, 5:30 pm
- Nov 7 – Guest Recital, Chris and Heather Dobbins, St. James Episcopal, 6:00 pm
- Nov 8 - Home Football game at Jackson Field, 8:00 am call
- Nov 8 – Guest Recital – Dominic and Nayelli Dousa, 4-hand piano, Studio Theater, 7:30 pm
- Nov 9 – Masterclass – Nayelli Dousa, piano, FAB 200, TBA
- Nov 15 – Homecoming Parade, TBA, Downtown Alpine
- Nov 15 - Homecoming Football game at Jackson Field, 8:00 am call
- Nov 16 – Move Equipment to Marshall Auditorium and Dress Rehearsal, 6:00 pm**
- Nov 17 – Mariachi/Jazz Ensemble concert, Marshall Auditorium, 7:30**
- Nov 19 – Studio Class RECITAL HEARING, FAB 200, 5:30 pm
- Nov 21 – Mariachi/Jazz at Artwalk, Transpecos Bank, 6:00 pm**
- Nov 22 – Artwalk parade, Location TBA, 10:00 am Call
- Nov 30 – Move Equipment to Marshall Auditorium, Meet in Band Hall, 3:00 pm
- Dec 2 – Extra Wind Ensemble Rehearsal with Fred Allen, Marshall Auditorium, 4-5:15 pm
- Dec 4 – Wind Ensemble/Concert Choir Concert, Marshall Auditorium, 6:00 pm call
- Dec 7 – Alpine Community Band Concert, Marshall Auditorium, 3:00 pm
- Dec 7 – Student Recital, Studio Theater, 7:30 pm
- Dec 10 – Music Juries, TBA

**Contract**

I have read and understand this syllabus, schedule, and set of policies. I will make necessary adjustments to my schedule, and understand that I am required to be at all rehearsals and performances. I understand that my colleagues rely on my presence and I on theirs, and that mutual respect and accountability are part of being a member of the Lobo Jazz/Mariachi Program. I will communicate questions, conflicts, and concerns in a timely and respectful manner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature