

**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

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:

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

- 1st Offense – Warning

- 2nd Offense – Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3rd Offense – Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4th Offense – Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5th 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.

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday, January 20	Classes begin	
Wednesday, January 21, 5:30 pm	Music Major Meeting	FAB 200
Wednesday, February 11	NO REHEARSAL	
Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 pm	Studio Class	FAB 200
Friday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.	UTEP piano students	St. James
Sunday, February 22, 3:00 p.m.	UTEP piano students	Studio Theater
Sunday, March 8, 3:00 pm	Graduate Lecture Recital Raven Thrasher, mezzo-soprano Themes in African-American Vocal Literature	Studio Theater
TBD	Todd Oxford, saxophone Masterclass	TBD
Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm call	Wind Ensemble/Concert Choir Feat. Todd Oxford, saxophone	Espino Center
March 16, 18, 20	NO REHEARSAL-Spring Break	
Wednesday, March 25, 5:30 pm	Studio Class	FAB 200
Friday, April 3, 6:00 pm	Heather Dobbins, bassoon and Christopher Dobbins, trombone Guest recital	St. James
Sunday, April 26, 6:00 pm	Mariachi and Jazz Ensemble Dress	
Monday, April 27, 6:00 pm call	Mariachi and Jazz Ensemble	Marshall Auditorium
Wednesday, April 15, 5:30 pm	Studio Class	FAB 200
Thursday, April 16, TBD	Investiture of Dr. William Kibler	Gallego Center
Thursday, April 30, 7:30 pm	Student Recital	Studio Theater
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.	Faculty Recital, Donald C. Freed Art Song Composition: The Poetry and the Process	Studio Theater
Sunday, May 3, 5:00 pm	Move Equipment to Marshall	Band Hall

TBD	Wind Ensemble at Midland Public Library	
Thursday, May 7, 6:00 pm call	Wind Ensemble/Concert Choir	Marshall Auditorium
Sunday, May 10, 3:00 pm	Alpine Community Band	Marshall Auditorium
Wednesday, May 13, TBA	Music Juries	Marshall Auditorium or Studio Theater

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