

Sul Ross State University
MUS 1113: Mariachi and Jazz Ensemble
Spring 2016

Instructor: Jeffrey J. Meyer, D.M.A.
Office: FAB 103 Office Hours: TBA
Phone: office: 432-837-8018 cell: 785-840-6077
(text only in emergency situations, please)
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Class Meeting Time: T/Th: 5-6:30 P.M., 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/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 Outcomes

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.

ADA Needs

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

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.

Class Attendance and Participation

From the 2014-16 Undergraduate & Graduate Catalogue:

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term. **The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences.**

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class (for a course that meets 3 times per week): for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class (or course that meets twice per week) will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three hour class (or a class that meets one time weekly) will constitute three absences.

An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an **authorized absence.**

- Every effort will be made by departments to minimize missed class time of students by careful scheduling of authorized University activities. When a student has to miss a class due to an authorized University activity, it will be the responsibility of the **student** to notify the instructor of the class in advance.
- The **department** responsible for the authorized University activity will also notify instructors through the Student Life Office by providing an explained absence list to the office.
- Instructors will give students participating in an authorized University activity the opportunity to make up class work, including tests, within a reasonable time and at the convenience of the instructor.

In order for an absence to be **excused**, written notification must be provided by the University, a medical doctor, funeral program, etc. Any unauthorized absence with no documentation shall be considered **unexcused**.

A student who is dropped from a course for excessive absences will be notified in writing by the Director of Records and Registration after the drop has been approved by the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive either an "F" or a "W" depending upon the faculty member's discretion.

This class meets twice per week, so each unexcused absence will count as 1.5 absences. **You may be dropped after 6 unauthorized absences.**

All absences, excused or unexcused, will result in a zero participation grade for the day. However, that zero can be ameliorated by your scheduling a sectional outside of rehearsal with at least one other group member (preferably in your section, but not necessarily) for the amount of time you missed. You will therefore make up the work you missed. This sectional must be documented in writing and provided to the instructor. You must do this during the concert season, not after our final semester concert.

Unexcused absences (per each class missed for a 2x/week class)

- 1 = 1.5 absences (zero for the day, can be raised with a sectional)
- 2 = 3 absences (zero for the day, can be raised with a sectional)
- 3 = 4.5 absences (max. letter grade lowered to "B")
- 4 = 6 absences (max. letter grade lowered to "C")
- 5 = 7.5 absences (max. letter grade lowered to "D")
- **6 = 9 absences (student may be dropped or grade lowered to "F")**

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. A tardy will lower your participation 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 daily participation grade.

Professional Communication Policy

- All communication with me should be done either face-to-face or through e-mail.
- You are expected to check your e-mail on a regular basis.
- Communication by cell phone is for EMERGENCY ONLY! Please call if an emergency will prevent you from attending class. Text messaging will not be allowed, nor will communication via Facebook.

Concert 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.

Performing for school functions may require a change in dress, such as wearing school colors. The director will inform the group in a timely fashion if this is required.

Grading

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

Daily Participation Grade (preparation & participation) 45%

Performances (Prompt arrival at call time, have all necessary materials and music, proper dress) 50%

Contract Return (see attached) 5%

In order to ensure understanding, please read this syllabus, get any pertinent questions answered, sign, and return to the instructor during the next class. Returning the contract on-time results in earning full credit. Turning it in late results in losing 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

Tentative Schedule and Topics to be Covered:

Daily Activities will include at least 3 of the following:

Study of daily routines and warm-ups

Scales and technical exercises

Balance, blend, and intonation studies

Rehearsal of literature for performance
 Listening to literature to be performed or other standard repertoire,
 accompanied by a discussion
 Study of chamber music
 Improvisation
 Sight-reading
 Discussion of performance practice issues

Calendar (subject to change)

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

TBA – dress/call times and times to move equipment for concerts and events.



SRSU Music Schedule Spring 2016

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday, January 19	Classes begin	
Wednesday, January 20, 5:30 pm	Music Major Meeting	FAB 200
Saturday, January 30, all day	Big Bend Brass Day	Various
February 10 – 13 <u>(no rehearsal Feb 11)</u>	TMEA	San Antonio
Wednesday, February 17, 5:30 pm	Studio Class	FAB 200
Sunday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.	Faculty Composition Recital	Marshall
Friday, March 4, 6:00 p.m.	Recuerdos Guitar Ensemble	St. James
Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 pm	Jeffrey Meyer/Karrin Ford Recital	Marshall
Thursday, March 10, 7:30 pm	Wind Ensemble/Concert Choir	Marshall
<u>Spring Break March 14-18</u>		
<u>No rehearsal March 24 – Dr. Meyer at West Texas A&M U</u>		
Wednesday, March 30, 5:30 pm	Studio Class	FAB 200
<u>Saturday, April 2, TBA</u>	<u>Sully Showcase</u>	<u>Gallego Center</u>
Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 pm	Studio Class RECITAL HEARING	FAB 200

Friday, April 15, 8:15 p.m.	Spring Awakening (w/Theatre)	Studio Theatre
Saturday, April 16, 8:15 p.m.		
Sunday, April 17, 2:00 p.m.		
Friday, April 22, 8:15 p.m.		
Saturday, April 23, 8:15 p.m.		
Sunday, April 24, 2:00 p.m.		
Friday, April 29, 8:15 p.m.		
Saturday, April 30, 8:15 p.m.		
Sunday, May 1, 2:00 p.m.		

<u>Monday, April 25, 7:30 pm</u>	<u>Mariachi and Jazz Ensemble</u>	<u>Marshall</u>
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Thursday, May 5, 7:30 pm	Wind Ensemble/Concert Choir	Marshall
Sunday, May 8, 3:00 pm	Alpine Community Band	Marshall
Sunday, May 8, 7:30 pm	Student Recital	Studio Theater
Wednesday, May 11, TBA	Music Juries	TBA
Saturday, May 14, 10:00 am	Commencement	Gallego Center

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