

## MUS 17731 Jazz Combo

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Prerequisites:** N/A

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**Course Description:**

The Jazz Combo is open to all university students who demonstrate -skill on the trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drum kit, bass guitar or guitar. Jazz Combo specializes in the development of instrumental performance techniques, with specific emphasis on music reading skills, jazz improvisation, and familiarity with all standard repertory and major recording artists. Performances are required. Membership and seating are determined by auditions, which are held at the start of every semester. The jazz ensemble performs on and off campus during the fall and spring semesters and is open to university students through audition.

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**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will demonstrate:

1. Stylistic characteristics of the various historical periods of music through study and performance of classic Jazz combo literature
2. Develop and demonstrate uniquely jazz combo performance skills
3. Recognize behavior requirement for success
4. Recognize the creative process of interpreting jazz band music in performance
5. Develop improvisation proficiency

# MUS 17731 Jazz Combo & 37731 Advanced Jazz Combo Syllabus – 1 Credit Hour

Spring 2017

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**Textbook:** None

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**Instructor Information:** Name: Dr. Todd Wilkinson  
Office: 206 Atkinson Hall  
Office Hours: 9AM Daily  
Phone: 816-797-3264  
Email: todd.wilkinson@ottawa.edu

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**Class Meetings and Scheduling:** TBA – Atkinson 206 – two meetings per week for an hour

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**Course Materials:**

An instrument in good working order  
#2 Pencil at every rehearsal  
Chromatic Tuner: Korg CA-40 Large Display Auto Chromatic Tuner, or appropriate substitute  
Electronic Metronome  
The Pocket Music Dictionary, Hal Leonard Pub., ISBN: 0-7935-1654-4

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**Additional Resources:** Access to Youtube: Wilkintodd

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**Grading /Evaluation:**

Course grades will be based upon the following allocation:  
Assessment methods are to include the monitoring of daily attendance, musical progress made through individual progress and active participation in scheduled concerts.

"A"	1 unexcused absences
"B"	2 unexcused absences
"C"	3 unexcused absences
"D"	4 unexcused absences
"F"	5 or more unexcused absences

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**Expectations for Blackboard participation (if applicable):**

There is not a Blackboard shell associated with this course.

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**Course Methods and Procedures:**

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, and panels, conferencing performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

**Course Outline:**

- I. Style Characteristics of jazz band music.
  - Classic Compositions and Arrangements
  - Original Jazz Compositions
  - Arrangements of Jazz compositions
  - Improvisation
  - Structure and Form
  
- II. Jazz Band Techniques
  - Principals of Individual instrumental production
  - Principals of breathing and sound production
  - Scales and Chords
  - Rhythm
  - Band Performance technique
  
- III. Rehearsal Techniques
  - Attendance
  - Listening
  - Concert Production
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**Instructor Course-Specific Policies & Expectations for Class Participation:**

All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out in the University course policy document available in the Blackboard shell of your course. You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. Failure to understand or abide by these policies could have negative consequences on your experience in this course. Cell phones are ok for taking notes and snapping pictures of whiteboard notes.

**Classroom Policy:**

In today's world, most music is background music; music is all around us, and people learn to tune it out. Thus, many people don't realize how difficult it is to listen to music or watch videos without talking. Those who talk during guided listening will be asked to leave. Where possible, allow for an empty chair between each person. Be on time, don't leave early, and refrain from bringing visitors. Thoughtful discussion is greatly appreciated. Humor is always appreciated, but raise your hand please. Students exhibiting continually distracting behavior may be asked to withdraw from the course.

**Attendance Policy:**

It is expected that students will be on time.

Students should arrive prepared and ready to play.

Your attendance at every rehearsal is of the utmost importance in this ensemble. You are allowed only one unexcused absence. Absences are excused only in the event of illness, family emergencies or prior approval from me. You can always contact me at 816-797-3264 and leave a message on the voice mail if I am not there.

We begin promptly at the appointed time--if you aren't in the room ready to play, you are LATE! 2 tardies will equal one unexcused absence. If you feel it is necessary to miss rehearsal, you must do the following:

1. Notify me IN ADVANCE.
2. Secure the services of an adequate substitute for your part.
3. Get your music to your substitute BEFORE rehearsal, and make sure you get it back immediately AFTER your missed rehearsal.

I am generally very understanding about an occasional missed rehearsal if it is for a good reason, you secure the services of an adequate substitute, and you notify me in advance. In addition, ***failure to attend all dress rehearsals and concerts constitutes a failing grade in this course.***

**Sectionals:**

Sectional rehearsals will be scheduled at a regular weekly time, and run by the section leader. These rehearsals will be determined based on your individual schedules and only scheduled if all members of

the section agree to the time and date. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory--an absence from a sectional rehearsal is the same as missing regular rehearsal.

**Tests and Final Examination:** The performances are the examination.

Beyond the attendance policies I set for my courses, OU's policy mandates attendance in order for students to maintain enrollment at OU and good standing with Student Financial Aid; OU's policy allows for students to be administratively withdrawn in some situations, which can be problematic for some scholarships. Please, never assume that you have been administratively withdrawn, just because you have stopped going to class. Consult with your Advisor, and see the policy in its entirety here, in the current Catalog, under Academic Affairs/ Attendance:

<http://ottawa.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Attendance>

**University Academic & Course Policies:**

Academic and course policies are spelled out in [The College Student Handbook](#) including but not limited to: Prerequisite advisory, Ottawa Student Email requirements, Attendance, Course Drop/Withdrawal, Requirements for Submission of Digital Files, Library Resources and Information Literacy, Academic Honesty, Classroom Conduct, Sensitivity and Confidentiality, Statement on Diversity, Commitment to Diversity and Equality in Education, Facilities and Services for Students with Disabilities, etc.

Student Handbook: Please refer to the student handbook for all university regulations:

- Students at the residential campus in Ottawa, Kansas: [www.ottawa.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.ottawa.edu/studenthandbook)
- Adult and Online Students: [www.ottawa.edu/APOSHandbook](http://www.ottawa.edu/APOSHandbook)

***You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. Failure to understand or abide by these policies could have negative consequences on your experience in this course.***

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**Disclaimer:**

Course content and schedule may vary from this outline to meet the needs of a particular group of students. The instructor will explain the rationale for any variance as it occurs.

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**Course Outline and Weekly Assignments:**

**Important Dates:**

TBA

**Last Rehearsal**

TBA

**Final Examination:** None

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**Facilities and Services for Students with Disabilities:**

Reasonable Accommodations for persons with known disabilities will be made in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can obtain information and forms by going to: <http://www.ottawa.edu/footer/disability-services> or by contacting the Counseling Center in Ward Science, first floor or via phone at 785-248-2582.

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