

Jazz Ensemble

Last Updated: Mon, 01/05/2026

Course prefix: MUSI

Course number: 3311

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):
26550

Instructor First Name: Cameron

Instructor Last Name: Crofts

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Jazz Ensemble - MUSI-3311-A

TERM: Spring 2026

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Title: MUSI 3311-A

Credit & Format: 1 Humanities Credit – Lecture

Time & Location: T & R 3:30-4:45 pm WV 163, 175, 277

Bimonthly Sectional: TBA

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Dr. Chip Crofts, Mr. Mace Hibbard

Telephone: 404.894.3194

Email: chip.crofts@music.gatech.edu

Office: WV 271

Office Hours: By appointment

Class meetings for most ensemble courses will include singing and/or woodwind and brass instruments indoors.

PREREQUISITE: No prerequisites for this course. Membership, however, is based on passing a successful audition into the ensemble.

ATTENDANCE:

1. *Attendance* Regular attendance is expected and required of all musicians. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal. ANY (excused or unexcused) *absences in excess of two will result in 1 letter grade reduction for EACH additional absence*. Additional sectional rehearsals will be scheduled within the first two weeks of the semester. Regular attendance is expected and required and please do not miss FOR ANY REASON (included unexcused) without prior and proper notification. This is a common courtesy for any music ensemble course that is team oriented in its setting.
2. *Attitude* Each rehearsal is a laboratory setting. Musicians will be regularly assessed on an individual basis for attitude, effort, cooperation and preparation. Grades will be assigned accordingly.

PERFORMANCES: Concert performances will be announced well in advance and will serve as exams. *Unexcused absences from performances will result in a minimum two letter grade drop per event.*

MUSIC: Music will be provided by GA Tech, distributed during the first few weeks of rehearsal, and supplemented throughout the semester. You are responsible for returning ALL original music by the end of the term.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Ensemble Instruction
2. Lecture/Discussion

3. Listening to recordings
4. Assigned readings and recordings
5. Individual instruction within sectional framework

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

1. Rehearsal/Sectional attendance	40%
2. Performances	30%
3. Musical preparation and assignments	30%
	100%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students must do their own work on assignments, projects, and tests unless collaboration is previously specified and approved by the instructor. Students caught cheating will receive zero credit for that assignment/quiz/test and may be subject to further sanctions through the Office of Student Integrity. Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code and avoid any instances of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

1. Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or oral information in the preparation of a paper or for an exam.
2. Substitution of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another individual or individuals.
3. False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the student.

Please refer to the published Georgia Institute of Technology Academic Honor Code for further information:

http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/policies/honor_code.html (Links to an external site.)

STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The ADAPTS Office will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. The web site for a student requesting accommodation is:

STATEMENT REGARDING CHANGES IN COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, it may be necessary to modify the above requirements or their timing as circumstances dictate. For example, the number and frequency of exams may be changed, or the number and sequence of assignments will be altered. In either of these cases, adequate notification will be given in writing and be discussed in class.

CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center

These uncertain times can be difficult, and many students may need help in dealing with stress and mental health. The [CARE Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and the [Counseling Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), and [Stamps Health Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#) will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Face-to-face appointments will require wearing a face covering and social distancing, with exceptions for medical examinations. Student Center services and operations are available on the [Student Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#) website. For more information on these and other student services, contact the Vice President and Dean of Students or the [Division of Student Life \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Accommodations for Students at Higher Risk for Severe Illness with Covid-19

Students may request an accommodation through the Office of Disability Services (ODS) due to 1) presence of a condition as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or 2) identification as an individual of higher risk for Covid-19, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Registering with ODS is a 3-step process that includes completing an application, uploading documentation related to the accommodation request, and scheduling an appointment for an “intake meeting” (either in person or via phone or video conference) with a disability coordinator.

If you have been approved by ODS for an accommodation, I will work closely with you to understand your needs and make a good faith effort to investigate whether or not requested accommodations are possible for this course. If the accommodation request results in a fundamental alteration of the stated learning outcome of this course, ODS, academic advisors, and the school offering the course will work with you to find a suitable alternative that as far as possible preserves your progress toward graduation.

Course Homeworks/Assignments/Papers

All course assignments will be submitted electronically via Canvas. *Point students to where these can be found in Canvas. If your students are expected to submit physical artifacts,*

share information on how they will be able to do this.

CALENDAR/Concert Dates/Required Events

Tuesday, February 19th - GT Jazz Ensembles Concert #1 -First Center for the Arts - 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 21st - GT Jazz Ensembles Concert #2 with Guest Aartists - First Center for the Arts - 7:30pm

Other Events - TBD

The School of Music community of faculty, staff, and students aspires to create and nurture an environment that is supportive of all backgrounds where different views and ideas are respected and encouraged. In all our pursuits, we commit to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion with regard to race, national origin, language, age, sexual orientation, gender, religion, and ability. Moreover, we will encourage intellectual inquiry and respectful exchange that cements our dedication to these principles.

Course learning outcomes:

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES: An auditioned jazz ensemble, focused upon the rehearsal, study and performance of jazz music. The purpose of this class is to develop:

1. Understanding of various jazz styles through listening and performance
2. Understanding of basic jazz theory and harmony.
3. Knowledge and understanding of basic improvisation and its importance in jazz.
4. Improved listening skills of jazz music.
5. Ability to produce polished and professional performance throughout the semester.

Upon completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Read jazz music in a fluent manner
2. Be able to perform in a variety of jazz styles
3. Improvise on a very basic level
4. Have a basic knowledge of jazz harmonies and theory
5. Discern various genres of jazz history and its important musicians

Required course materials:

Jazz Ensemble Music, printed and pdf format. No textbooks.

Grading policy:

PROCEDURES: Attendance at rehearsals is REQUIRED and MANDATORY and will be factored into your grade. The instructor is under no obligation to make up material presented in class unless the student can provide a reasonable and, if appropriate, documented excuse. Some assignments and projects may require additional lab time, which will be established the first week of class. Additional or alternate lab times will be arranged with the instructor and the assigned section leader.

If you have to miss class for an approved reason or sickness/conflict, please notify the Instructor PRIOR to that class date. Any notifications AFTER the class will be considering an unexcused absence unless circumstances are such in special and unique circumstances. Read below for more specifics related to attendance.

METHOD OF EVALUATION/GRADING:

1. Rehearsal/Sectional attendance	40%
2. Performances	30%
3. Musical preparation and assignments	30%
	100%

Attendance policy:

ATTENDANCE:

1. *Attendance* Regular attendance is expected and required of all musicians. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal. ANY (excused or unexcused) *absences in excess of two will result in 1 letter grade reduction for EACH additional absence*. Additional sectional rehearsals will be scheduled within the first two weeks of the semester.

Regular attendance is expected and required and please do not miss FOR ANY REASON (included unexcused) without prior and proper notification. This is a common courtesy for any music ensemble course that is team oriented in its setting.

2. *Attitude* Each rehearsal is a laboratory setting. Musicians will be regularly assessed on an individual basis for attitude, effort, cooperation and preparation. Grades will be assigned accordingly.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence