

## Fall 2026 SYMPHONIC BAND- Syllabus

**TERM:** Fall 2026

### **COURSE INFORMATION:**

**Course Title:** MUSI 3131

**Credit & Format:** 1 Credit

**Time & Location:** Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-4:45pm, Couch 115

**INSTRUCTOR:** Benjamin Diden  
**OFFICE:** 101 Couch Building  
**PHONE:** (404) 894-8951  
**EMAIL:** benjamin.diden@music.gatech.edu

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:** MUSI 3131 (SYMPHONIC BAND) provides ensemble performance experiences in a wide range of musical styles and periods for all students at GT. The music performed in these organizations varies from semester to semester and is selected to provide a challenging opportunity for musical growth.

By rehearsing and performing at the highest possible level of artistry, each student will be challenged to improve his/her individual musicianship and ensemble skills. The highest quality repertoire for wind instruments will be the core of the curriculum, allowing for a wide variety in the musical, educational, and philosophical foundations of the course.

An auditioned instrumental ensemble focused upon the rehearsal, study and performance of traditional and contemporary music for winds and percussion. The purpose of the class is to develop:

1. An understanding of instrumental technique in theory and practice
2. The application of harmonic, structural and aural skills in relation to instrumental performance practice
3. An experience with and knowledge of various instrumental repertoire, including works from major style eras and genres
4. The ability to present polished and professional performance throughout the semester

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

1. Demonstrate and utilize proper instrumental technique
2. Read and understand traditional and contemporary musical symbols and notation
3. Discern, discuss and contextualize major genres of instrumental music
4. Apply harmonic and structural analysis in relation to instrumental performance

**PROCEDURES:** Class will meet Tues & Thurs from 3:30-4:45 p.m. for lecture and rehearsal. Attendance is *required*. The instructor is under no obligation to make up material presented in class unless the student provides a reasonable and, if appropriate, documented excuse. Some assignments may require additional lab and sectional time.

**PREREQUISITE:** Significant instrumental music experience and an audition are required. Auditions take place the first Tuesday of each semester.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Members earn one hour of academic credit for their participation. During the first week of classes, each student will receive a schedule of events for the entire semester including dress rehearsals, off-campus performance dates (if applicable), and concerts. Grades will be based on attendance at rehearsals and performances, including sectional rehearsals, and compliance with the stated schedule, including concert dress requirements. Students are urged to keep a personal calendar. There are no written exams.

<b>Unexcused Absences:</b>	None or One	A (semester grade)
	Two	B (semester grade)
	Three	C (semester grade)
	Four	Withdrawn from the course With an F for the semester

### **Rehearsals:**

Rehearsals will take place in person in full ensemble in room 115 of Couch.

**Excused Absences or Tardies:** Any absence from a rehearsal (or tardy) must be cleared in **advance\*** with the conductor.

- (Best)*
1. Contact the conductors in person, in advance. \*
  2. Email the conductors in advance\*
  3. Telephone the conductors in advance\* and explain your situation.
  4. As a last resort, leave emergency messages on the answering machine at the phone number listed above in advance. \*

**\* It will be determined by the conductor if the requested absence or tardy is to be considered excused.** If illnesses occur frequently, you may be asked for written documentation from a physician. The mere fact that you have informed the conductors in advance about missing a rehearsal **does not** automatically guarantee that you will be excused. Please make your best attempt **not to schedule** routine health appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist), job interviews, academic advising appointments, car repairs, etc. during the rehearsal time.

### **AUDITIONS:**

An audition is required for seat placement and for membership in the ensemble. More importantly, it gives us an idea of the repertoire that will best serve this ensemble.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Personal instrument or school instrument  
Concert attire (below)

### **INSTRUMENTS:**

A rental fee of \$25/semester will be charged for school owned instruments. Lockers may be rented for \$15/semester. Practice room access may be acquired for \$15/semester.

### **MUSIC:**

Due to the nature of this ensemble, parts will usually be distributed during the first rehearsals. You are expected to come to the next rehearsals as prepared as possible on your parts. Questions concerning parts should be directed to the Band librarian(s). All music remains the property of GT, and you will be held responsible for any lost or damaged parts. If music is not returned, you will receive an incomplete.

### **CONCERT ATTIRE & PERSONAL APPEARANCE:**

Wearing the required concert attire for any performance is a requirement of the course. Students who elect not to comply will, at the discretion of the conductors, be asked not to perform and/or may expect to have their course grade lowered.

Appropriate attire should fall under one of the following options:

Option 1:

Tuxedo or Black suit, white shirt, black tie, black shoes, black socks

Option 2:

All black, which can include black slacks, black shirt, black dress or skirt, black shoes and black socks

We intend to maintain a high professional standard in the GT Band program regarding formal concert attire as well as standards of personal grooming, much the same as you would experience in the professional world with a symphony orchestra or professional chamber ensemble.

If you have any questions or doubts about your own concert attire, please seek the opinion of your conductors well ahead of time.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

1. Modeling
2. Performance
3. Lecture
4. Discussion
5. Printed Music / Informational Handouts
6. Selected Reference Recordings
7. Cooperative Learning

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

1. Rehearsal/Sectional attendance	40%
2. Performances	30%
3. Musical preparation and audits	10%
4. Application of aural analysis	10%
5. Integration of historical and social context	<u>10%</u>
	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](http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/policies/honor_code.html)

**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:

[http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/faculty\\_guide/sturespon.htm](http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/faculty_guide/sturespon.htm)

**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.

**STUDENT-FACULTY EXPECTATIONS:**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Additional information for research-related work is given in The Expectations of Advisors and Advisees. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

A “Schedule of Events” accompanies this Course Outline and constitutes an essential part of the overall course requirement. You absolutely **MUST** obtain a calendar and keep track of your obligations and requirements such as dress rehearsals and concerts.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**CONCERT #1-THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026-7:30PM-FERST CENTER**

**CONCERT #2-TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026-7:30PM-FERST CENTER**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: CANVAS/Class List-Serv:**

Weekly rehearsal schedules, announcements, mp3 files of repertoire we are performing, etc. will be posted on CANVAS. We encourage you to keep close track of our CANVAS site & Listserv announcements. We will make every effort to communicate the schedule to you well in advance. In return, we expect you to be on time to rehearsal with the necessary music learned and ready to go. Recordings of repertoire are posted as a courtesy, and you should listen to each piece, with your part in front of you, whenever possible.