

**CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**MUSC 1390 01 Jazz Ensemble 1**

**Semester/Year:** Spring 2015

**Lecture Hours:**

**Lab Hours:** 2.00

**Credit Hours:** 1.0

**Class Time:** 4:00-5:30

**Days:** M, W

**Room:** MU 123

**Instructor's Name:** Dr. Joshua R. Mietz

**Instructor's Contact**

**Office Phone:** 307-268-2246

**Email:**

**Information:** E-mail is easiest.

303-818-5035

joshuamietz@caspercollege.edu

Please call or text cell in urgent cases

**Office Hours:** M-F, 3:00PM MU 206

**Course Description:** This laboratory group is open to all students with previous instrumental music experience. The jazz ensemble performs at assemblies, concerts, shows, and on tour.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** Permission of the instructor

**Goal:** Students will become familiar with a range of musical styles including swing, bebop, Latin, and funk. Students will have the opportunity to polish ensemble playing skills and improvisational skills.

**Casper College General Education Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
2. Use the scientific method
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

**Outcomes:** Students will also perform in a wide variety of settings including jazz concerts, cultural outreach tours, community performances, and jazz festivals. (Outcome 5)

**Course Objectives:**

1. Develop a team culture
2. Strengthen individual contribution to the team through individual practice and rehearsal
3. Develop a large volume of jazz to perform at community venues

**Methodology:** Students will participate in three hours of rehearsal per week and will be instructed in elements of jazz style, articulation, sound/intonation, and balance. Students are also required to listen to examples available in the music library.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Grading is based on participation and completion of assignments. Participation will include all performances and rehearsals, including sectionals. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal. Students are allowed one unexcused absence. Each ensuing absence will result in the loss of one letter grade. Missing a scheduled performance without prior consent from instructor will result in a failing grade.

Letter Grade by percentage: A=90-100, B= 80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. Students are responsible for all information, including assignments and changes to syllabus or schedule, presented in class or distributed via email.

**Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.**

**Required Text, Readings, and Materials:**

- Five PENCILS at every rehearsal.
- Music to be supplied by Casper College
- Recordings on reserve and Grove Online
- Instrument in perfect working order

**Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** See current Class Schedule

**Attendance Policy:** Students must attend every rehearsal. Each ensuing absence will result in the loss of one letter grade. Missing a scheduled rehearsal or performance without prior consent from instructor will result in a failing grade. Excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, [bheuer@caspercollege.edu](mailto:bheuer@caspercollege.edu). The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Required Attendance:**

**Jazz Night Concert**

**November 18, 7:00PM, Wednesday, Wheeler Concert Hall**

Concert featuring Jazz Band and CCC

4:00PM: Monday November 16, Dress Rehearsal, WCH

4:00PM: Wednesday, November 18, Rehearsal/Sound Check, WCH

7:00PM: Performance. 6:30 Call time.

**There may be additional performance opportunities if interest and venues permit. Students will receive ample notice.**

## Gossip Policy

**What is Gossip:** Gossip is the sharing or spreading of information with the intention of creating a negative portrayal of an individual or organization or, as Dave Ramsey defines it: “discussing anything negative with someone who can’t help solve the problem.”

**Why Gossip is Harmful:** Gossip can and will destroy relationships and organizations. It is very important that people on your team feel empowered to continue doing their best.

**What to do with problems:** If you or another student is having a problem, please bring it to your team leader, conductor, section leader, applied professor, or other person up the chain of command from yourself. This person can and will do everything to help you solve your problem. Students are not to aimlessly complain to other students or faculty in the halls or rehearsal spaces. When in doubt, remember: negatives are handed up (to your leaders), positives are handed down (when your leaders compliment you). Stuff happens to everyone. If, for example, you are upset with your section leader, speak with that person first then speak with your applied professor or ensemble director about it. Always try to resolve problems head-on with the person directly involved.

**What Happens to Students Engaged in Gossip:** Students caught engaging in gossip will be warned once and only once. After their initial warning, students caught a second time will be excused from the studio, ensemble, or class and will receive unexcused absences for the remainder of the semester.

**Why the No-Gossip-Policy:** College is tough. By implementing this policy, it helps make your experience at Casper College as positive as possible. When we see each other as valuable teammates, we can and will achieve great things together. We will function as a unit. This is not possible when a faction of our team is actively degrading the other half. “Complaining to your teammates is disloyalty, and it fosters a negative spirit that will trash the organization.”<sup>1</sup> We have a great organization and team, let’s do everything we can to keep it as strong as possible.

**How to Thrive in a No-Gossip-Environment:** In my experience, students who hold each other accountable have the best success in a No-Gossip-Environment. If in a room with other students engaged in gossip, often, the wise students leave the area as to dissociate themselves from any negative encounters. Other students interject with “excuse me but aren’t we gossiping here?” (Remember negatives up, positives down). The smart student cuts it off right there. If you’re unsure, don’t do it.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.daveramsey.com/article/gossip-is-poison-to-your-team/lifeandmoney\\_business/](http://www.daveramsey.com/article/gossip-is-poison-to-your-team/lifeandmoney_business/)

**Controlled Substances Policy:**

Students are not to be in the music building, rehearsals, or lessons under the influence of any controlled substances. This policy includes prescription drugs recreational drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. Lessons will not be taught to students showing any effects of any controlled substances including smelling of tobacco, booze, or any other substance. These students will be asked to leave rehearsal and earn an unexcused absence. If this becomes a continual problem, students may be removed from the course. If you have any outside-the-box pharmaceutical needs, please address them with Dr. Mietz at the beginning of the semester or later with a doctor's note in hand. Dr. Mietz is happy to accommodate any disabilities but will not enable anyone.