

Instructor: Mimi Rabson

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Office Hours:

Course Chair: Melissa Howe

Description: This course will introduce string players to performance techniques useful for playing popular music. Using music by James Brown, Wilson Picket, Stevie Wonder, the Meters, and others students will explore riffing, playing in different parts of the beat, playing without vibrato, soloing and other techniques that will help them play convincingly in several styles of dance music.

Course Objective: Upon completion of this course the students will be prepared to play convincingly in a number of different styles of popular music including swing, funk, bossa nova, ska, and several fiddle styles. They will also be able to write competent "horn" charts and to riff spontaneously in a section.

Required Text(s): None.

Coursework and Out-of-Class Preparation: There will be performed weekly assignments. In order to maintain satisfactory standing in this class, approximately 3 hours per week of out-of-class preparation are recommended.

Midterm: TBA

Final: TBA

Grading Criteria:

A (90-100)	Superior, Exceptional; control of course material enables excellent production.
B (80-89)	Good; grasp of material enables above-average production.
C (70-79)	Average; assimilation of material enables acceptable production.
D (60-69)	Below Average; exposure to material enables poor, but passable production.
F (below 60)	Not Passing; assimilation of material insufficient to demonstrate acceptable productive capacity.

Final Grade Determination:

15%	Attendance
15%	Participation
30%	Performance of weekly assignments
20%	Midterm exam
20%	Final exam

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all meetings of their ensembles. Instructors must be notified in advance if an unavoidable absence is foreseen. In addition, the student must arrange for a suitable replacement to fill his/her role in the ensemble. Failure to send a substitute player will result in a grade of "F" for the ensemble and can result in the loss of the seat in the ensemble. The grade of "F" will stand as a final grade except in cases of extraordinary circumstance as determined by the department chair. Unexcused absence(s) may result in a course grade of "F".

Deadline for Course Withdrawal: 5:00 PM, Friday following Midterm Week. See Academic Calendar.

Withdrawal from a course may not be initiated after that date.

Withdrawal Policy: You may withdraw from this class by completing a *Student-Initiated Withdrawal from a Class* form at the Office of the Registrar. The withdrawal form must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar before the end of the 9th week of classes in Fall and Spring semesters, or the end of the 8th week in the 12-week Summer Session. If you submit the withdrawal form by the deadline, you will receive a grade of “W” for the class. Withdrawing from a class cannot be done after the deadline.

The instructor will **not** withdraw you from the class for any reason (including absence) or submit the form for you. It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. If you withdraw from this class, you continue to be financially responsible for the class and are not eligible for a tuition refund or replacement course. Please be aware that withdrawing from a class may affect scholarship, financial aid, and/or international student visa status. If you receive financial aid or veterans' benefits, your eligibility for aid may be reduced by withdrawing. If you are an international student, you may jeopardize your F-1 visa status.

In case of doubt about your status and options, ask the instructor, department chair and/or the Counseling & Advising Center.

Topical Course Outline

Each week students will transcribe horn lines or grooves from the classic popular music repertoire. They will pay particular attention to the feel, length of eighth notes, dynamics, lack of vibrato as well as the form of the tunes. They will play their work in class. The tunes/styles covered will include the following:

1. Bluegrass
2. Cajun
3. Texas Swing
4. Swing - Li'l Darlin, Satin Doll, In the Mood
5. Jump
6. Soul - Knock on Wood, Sould Man, Respect, Me and Mrs. Jones
7. Funk - James Brown, Earth Wind and Fire, Tower of Power, Parliament
8. Brazilian - Jobim, Stan Getz
9. Ska - the Skatalites, Mighty Mighty Bosstones.