

UNIVERSITY BAND

MU 1311 A

Mr. Brady Massey

Fall 2020

Course Requirements

Course MU 1311 (University Band) will meet at Manley Chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:30-3:30p. All members are expected to be at each rehearsal. Members are also expected to spend the time necessary on their own to ensure that their individual parts are prepared for rehearsal as well as make consistent improvement of musical skills.

Membership is open to all WBU students, based on audition and ability to play a standard wind band instrument.

There will be a some scheduled performances throughout the year. Students are required to perform at these events.

Required Materials

- Functioning, well-maintained instrument
- Supplies for your instrument: Reed, oils, swabs, mutes, etc. We don't have a supply here.
- Have a pencil at each rehearsal and use it.
- A positive attitude and strong work ethic.

Provided Materials

- Sheet music (which you will take good care of)
- Folder
- Instrument-specific PPE masks
- Gloves for percussionists
- Puppy pads for brass players
- WBU Band T-Shirt

Academic Objectives

Students will:

1. Successfully perform an assessment in order to establish the best possible seating arrangement.
2. Attain mastery of their individual parts
3. Perform with others demonstrating great effort and displaying technical skills (tone, pitch, blend, balance, articulations, dynamics, rhythm, etc.)
4. Perform with others demonstrating great effort and displaying expressive skills (style, phrasing, musicality, etc.)
5. Develop a personal code of conduct in which they dedicate themselves to the other members of the ensemble and their success by preparing their music and getting help when needed.
6. Develop a work ethic which enables them to contribute to the betterment of the ensemble.
7. Conduct themselves in a professional manner to enhance the productivity and musicality of every rehearsal.
8. Develop personal professional time-management skills to successfully enhance the ensemble.
9. Complete assigned/requested tasks in a timely fashion.
10. Demonstrate a professional work ethic as regards their contribution to the ensemble.
11. Communicate in a timely and effective manner.
12. Enjoy the passion of great music making, the pride in achieving excellence, and being a family.

Personal Expectations of WBU Band Members

1. Communicate
2. Go to your classes
3. Complete and turn in your work on time
4. Keep up with what's happening in your classes. Get help or tutoring if necessary.
5. Reach out if/when you are concerned
6. Communicate
7. Be an outstanding representative of the WBU Band, including making smart decisions in social and academic situations.
8. Enjoy being a part of a committed family
9. Remember that your professors truly have your success as their goal. Don't be afraid to reach out.
10. Be the best teammate you can be
11. Communicate

Performance Dress

Plan on wearing all-black - black pants or slacks (not jeans), black button-down shirt or turtleneck. We're assessing what performances look like during the pandemic.

Course Grading

Academic grading is based primarily on attendance.

The director reserves the right to adjust grades based on effort, **preparation**, participation and daily performance.

Students may be dropped from the program for behavior which is detrimental to the success of the ensemble, such as holding the ensemble back by having a habit of unpreparedness or effort.

In the professional world, honoring commitments is highly valued and expected. Work, studying, social activities, scheduling meetings with advisors or professors, are not valid reasons for missing rehearsal.

Attendance:	A = 0-2 unexcused absences
	B = 3-4 unexcused absences
	C = 5 unexcused absences
	F = 6 or more unexcused absences OR
	1 unexcused absence from performance
	[Double absences may count just before a performance.]

Unexcused absences are those in which the student did not obtain an excuse prior to the event (rehearsal or performance). Absences may be excused for illness and other extenuating circumstances by **communicating** with the director prior to missing the event (rehearsal or performance).

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In the event the director cancels a rehearsal, students will be marked as "present" on the official attendance register.

Other Information

There may arise times in which labs or other academic requirements for a student's major degree coursework may overlap with this course. It is the student's responsibility to communicate any potential conflicts to the director. If, on a particular day, this conflicting course doesn't meet for whatever reason, students are expected to be at rehearsal.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, students may only have one conflicting course day to maintain membership. Older students are considered "grandfathered" out of this requirement, based on director's approval.

Rehearsal Expectations

- Be present and be early. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late.
- Be prepared and ready to play when rehearsal begins.
- Anything that interrupts the flow of a rehearsal is bad etiquette.
- Take care of personal necessities (restroom, water, etc.) before rehearsal begins.
- Do not let personal conversations interfere with your set up responsibilities.
- Keep non-essential talking to a minimum.
- Cell phones will be put away and silent. You must have permission to have them out to use a tuning or metronome application.
- You are expected to give your best effort as we pursue performance excellence. It is an insult to your peers to "go through the motions."
- Have whatever you need for rehearsal each day set up and ready to go by 2:30, including music and pencil. We only have a limited time to rehearse. Mark your parts as instructions are given. Use pencil only.
- Make certain your equipment is in good working order.
- "Practice" is when you spend your time perfecting your part. "Rehearsal" is when we combine the efforts of everyone's practice. You are expected to manage your time to work out sections of your music that give you trouble. It is unacceptable to hold us back due to a lack of effort.
- You are responsible for storing your equipment at the end of rehearsal. Do not leave instruments or folders out.
- On Tuesdays, the stage must be cleared in preparation for Wednesday's chapel service.

HAZO'S OBSERVATIONS

- Always use good posture to play. Always.
- Always work towards the end goal.
- When dynamics go down, effort goes up.
- Hesitation ruins great moments.
- It's harder to maintain excellence than it is to achieve it. If we're not moving forward, we're stagnant.
- Go for the note, then the dynamic.
- Eighth>Quarter>Half>Whole... Bring out the moving parts.
- Lean on dissonances to bring them out and to make musical sense.
- Composers don't write the dynamic you should play - they write the dynamic the audience should hear.
- Performances can be great yet still not worth remembering.
- Whole notes can be the most difficult - there is nowhere to hide tone, pitch, dynamics, and counting.

SOME COLLEGE SURVIVAL TIPS

These are excerpts from “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Surviving College,” by Dr. Laurie Rozakis.

Have a good relationship with your advisor. He/she wants you to be successful.

It’s ok to be homesick. Talk it out with someone. It’s sometimes hard to make the transition into being a college student where there’s no one to follow you around and check on what you’ve not done.

Stress is for real. In college, the causes of stress usually boil down to getting behind in class (and not trying to catch up), having too many time commitments, or making bad decisions that turn into regret.

Fight stress by getting enough sleep. Really. Exhaustion makes it worse. Also - eat regularly and feed your body the fuel it needs.

If your grades start to go south, go COMMUNICATE with your professor. Face-to-face. Allow them the opportunity to help you. Plus (!) the better a professor gets to know you and that you’re concerned, the less likely they are to consider you as just one cow in the herd. Oh - and get tutoring. It’s there because folks need it. It’s not something to be embarrassed about.

Go. to. class. Fight the urge to sleep in or miss. You’ll learn more, your grade will likely be higher, and you’ll network and develop a good reputation with the faculty. That can come in very handy as graduation approaches. Make the investment, and haul your carcass to class.

Keep up with the syllabus. It’s kind of like a contract - that’s how your prof sees it. It lays out expectations, responsibilities, class rules, and a course outline.

You know how there’s supposedly “no such thing as a stupid question?” Well, that’s wrong. There is one kind of stupid question - one to which the answer is in the syllabus or in a reading assignment. Profs pay attention and know who’s not using their syllabus.

Profs keep office hours. They are regularly scheduled blocks of time when they will be available to students in their office. Don’t hesitate to use them, or make an appointment to meet at a different time. Remember that they are really pulling for you to succeed!

In class, participate. Make intelligent comments that are on topic. Let your body language show that you’re engaged - don’t slouch, and do make eye contact.

Don’t cram. Study ahead of time at your own rate.

A college student's most valuable commodity is time. You're really only in class about 10% of the time - how to spend the other 90% is the trick. Prioritize taking care of yourself, and staying caught up in class. After that, carve out time for fun stuff. Procrastination and time-wasting will be your downfall.

Someone has invested a lot in you to be there. Your primary focus is to get your education and prepare for real-life. You have to be in class. You have to study. You have to finish and turn in your work.

If you're a procrastinator, now's the time to break the habit.

Reading for class has a purpose. Go slowly so you grasp the material. Re-read passages that are confusing. You don't want to miss important facts or details. Take notes on key words, dates, and facts.

If your attention span is short, do the difficult stuff first and get them out of the way. Study the hardest class first, before you get tired. Study as much in the daytime as you can. When you get tired and bored, take a break. Go do something else for a little while. Come back refreshed.

Test taking: don't panic. Folks get really stressed and self-conscious about some things and it affects their performance. Don't panic if some questions are harder than others. Don't panic if other students finish before you; take your time.

Don't play the "the professor doesn't like me" game. Just like you, they tend to judge people based on what they see and how you approach your work. Treat them with respect, and they will respect you. If you're obviously trying and taking things seriously, profs will be willing to do more to help you out. They notice if you miss class, come unprepared, sit in the back, and whether you're taking notes.

Jumping ahead, employers in the real world tend to look for the same qualities. If you make these qualities a habit now, you're ahead of the game when it counts. Write and speak well. Make sure you understand what you read. Show interest in different areas. Get along with people who aren't like you. Have a strong work ethic. Work well with teams. Set and reach goals. Be willing to learn. Be well-groomed, well-mannered, and pleasant.

Embrace opportunity. All of the faculty and staff want you to succeed. Their advice is free, and there for the taking, so tap into the knowledge that's right in front of you.

Stay committed to your study schedule - don't get distracted by campus social life.

Use proper, standard grammar, spelling and syntax. Social media/text standards are not appropriate for academic use. Use resources such as grammarly.com if needed.

CUT YOUR STUDY TIME BY TAKING GREAT NOTES

These excerpts are taken from howtostudyincollege.com. Another great resource for all aspects of succeeding in college is colleginfo geek.com.

You have to make sure your class notes are complete and understandable.

If your professor passes out some sort of lecture outline, that's a supplement, not a substitute for taking your own notes.

Taking notes needs to be fast, flexible, and done with the end in mind. Your notes are to help you prepare for exams.

No matter how your professor delivers the information, you should keep all of your notes for that class in the same place.

Learn how each professor conducts their class and what materials they use. The syllabus should tell you a lot, but if you're not sure, ask the professor. (communication!)

One of the great rules of the universe is that whatever you fail to write down will be on the exam. :-) If the professor is discussing it, it's on the exam.

Take notes with the exam in mind. Be able to study easily from the notes you've made.

Try to write down as much of what comes out of the professor's mouth as you can. If needed, write fast and sloppy (unless you're not going to rewrite them after class). Some things are a waste of ink, but usually not.

Some folks record the lecture if it's allowed. You can do that, but it's really just a way to take poor notes. It's not efficient, and you'll have to listen to the entire lecture a second time to get your information.

Take notes by hand. Invent your own form of shorthand and abbreviate a lot. You'll come back and fill it in later. Writing helps you remember the material. Plus, you can draw diagrams to help you later.

It's amazing how many people leave class without understanding what just happened. They don't want to interrupt, or they think they'll look stupid if they ask questions. If needed, make a note in the margin to ask right after class.

Take time to review and fill in your notes immediately if you can. You were writing frantically about new concepts. Lots of abbreviations and shorthand. While it's fresh in your mind, go through them. If you can, stay in the classroom and do it before walking out.

BURNOUT

SIGNS OF BURNOUT:

- Lack of motivation to complete tasks
- Frequently feeling overwhelmed
- Having trouble focusing
- Failure to meet goals, or setting unrealistic goals
- Too busy for the activities or people you love
- Being unhappy and having negative thoughts a lot
- Brian fry every day
- Continual feeling of stress and lack of productivity

Burnout is real, and it's hard to deal with. Be good to yourself and recognize when you have some trouble. Here are some ways to fight burnout:

1. Change your planning and organizational system.
2. Create a healthy morning and night routine, and switch them up when they get dull.
3. Make sure self-care is part of your day. Journaling, yoga, meditation, etc., are good releases.
4. Don't substitute caffeine for protein.
5. Create realistic and healthy goals. Workout, ace an exam, drink water, read books for fun...
6. Create a more productive study/practice routine. Lose distractions.
7. Remind yourself why you're on this path to your professional life.
8. Schedule a fun weekend.
9. Spend time with people who matter to you.
10. Designate certain times of the day to unplug and leave the grid.
11. Get enough sleep.
12. Consider your diet. If it consists mostly of vending machine choice, make it a point to go eat full meals.