

## **MUJS 5534, Jazz Composition & Arranging – Applied Lessons (2 credits)**

**Graduate Level – required of all Jazz Arranging Majors (3 semesters)**

**Lesson time – fifty minutes once a week as scheduled**

Professor: Richard DeRosa

[Richard.DeRosa@unt.edu](mailto:Richard.DeRosa@unt.edu)

[derosamusic@gmail.com](mailto:derosamusic@gmail.com)

973-953-1471

Objectives/Outcomes: during the course of study, each student will write at least two pieces but preferably three or more per semester to develop a portfolio of work towards the eventual goal of a graduate recital.

There will be thirteen scheduled lessons per semester.

1<sup>st</sup> semester – focuses on standard instrumentation for small and large jazz ensembles. Different styles are encouraged – blues, standards, modal, Latin, etc.

2<sup>nd</sup> semester – focuses on writing for voices. SATB ensemble (a cappella and with rhythm section accompaniment). Also arrangements for male and female voice with instrumental accompaniment. Another project involves the setting of text to create a composition in the style that is appropriate to the text.

3<sup>rd</sup> semester – focuses on complex orchestration and orchestral writing in general. Topics include mutes for brass, orchestral woodwinds, mixing woodwinds and brass, strings and harp, expanding the rhythm section color (various keyboards, guitars, vibes, percussion) and treating the rhythm section also as a “string” section by integrating the group with the horn sections.

External projects: “commissions” from the school where student arrangers may be requested to create an arrangement for a guest artist.

*Depending on the student’s previous experience, the agenda within each semester may be adjusted accordingly.*

### **Production and Assessment**

It is expected that at least two pieces will be written for minimum satisfactory progress (a grade of B). Three or more pieces are considered optimum production. Quality of work is also considered.

### **Attendance policy**

Only an excused absence is acceptable (tour, sickness, academic conflict, other extenuating circumstances such as an unforeseen accident). Please do not show up with a communicable illness (including colds). The preferred method of notification is via e-mail but the phone is acceptable as well. Please notify ASAP.

*Any absence does not relinquish your obligation to meet the creative deadline.*

**Compliance with Federal Statutes:**

The College of Music complies with "The Americans With Disabilities Act", in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disability. If you have an established disability as defined in this act and would like to request accommodations, please see me as soon as possible.

**Scholastic Honesty Policy:**

Cheating, in any form, will result in an automatic grade of "F" in the course, the removal of the student from the course, and immediate reporting of the student's actions to the office of the Dean of Students and to the office of the Dean of the College of Music.