

**Humboldt State University
Department of Music**

Syllabus

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| Symphonic Band | Fall, 2016 | Paul Cummings |
| MUS 106H-1 | CRN: 41684 | Office: 219 Music B |
| MUS 406H-1 | CRN: 41691 | 826-5435 |
| TR 3:00-4:50 p.m. | FRH 1 unit | Grading: mandatory CR/NC |
| Office hours: M 5:00; W 11:00; F 12:00 and by appointment | | pcc6@humboldt.edu |

Course Description

Symphonic Band is the premiere wind band on the campus of Humboldt State University. As such, rehearsals and performances will feature high-quality repertoire for various combinations of brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Membership is determined by audition at the beginning of each semester, and parts are assigned at the director's discretion.

Course Objectives

As a general education course, Symphonic Band involves more than just rehearsal and performance of music for winds and percussion. While an important part of your participation in this course is the acquisition of improved technical and ensemble skills, a more important part has to do with increasing your understanding of music as an art form and its relation to society in general. The arts cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity. Participation in the arts develop and refine emotional and artistic perception, as well as cognitive and physical abilities, by studying great works of the human imagination and allowing individual aesthetic and creative experiences. With this in mind, I have outlined below a set of objectives that you should keep in mind and to which I will ask you to respond in relation to your experiences this semester.

1. Music has a vocabulary all its own. In order to understand music, you must understand, and be able to use its unique vocabulary. Appropriate musical terms and aesthetic descriptions will be used whenever possible by the instructor when giving directions.
2. Students, through participation in music making, will gain a deeper appreciation of the aesthetic aspects of music as it relates to the human experience.
3. By listening to themselves, others in the ensemble, and the group as a whole, students will develop personal criteria for the critical evaluation of performances. In addition, through musical preparation and performance, students will expand awareness of their individual capacities for creative expression through the arts.
4. Through exposure by rehearsal and performance to music of many styles, historical eras, and cultural contexts, students will develop a critical and aesthetic sensitivity to the contributions of cultures other than their own.
5. Students will be exposed through lecture and demonstration to the broad musical concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form, and the more specific concepts of intonation, phrasing, balance, blend, and stylistic interpretation. They will apply these concepts to specific musical works.

Music Department Assessment Goals and Outcomes

This course explicitly contributes to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these Music Department Goals and Outcomes:

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

- Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate improvement in their performing skills – both in the quality of their performance and the difficulty of the repertoire which they can perform.

HSU Learning Outcomes

This course explicitly contributes to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these HSU Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.
- Competence in a major area of study.
- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities, and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.

Area C Course Objectives

- All courses shall accomplish the following in a discipline-specific manner.
- To understand human experience through the development of the ability to recognize and test relationships between particular instances and facts, and general principles and concepts.
- To develop and/or increase one's subjective responses to humanistic and/or artistic works, including analysis of disciplinary standards of judgment (contemporary and/or historically) in humanistic and artistic areas.
- To highlight varied factors in the personal nature of human beings' production and response to artistic and humanistic works including (but not limited to) gender, culture or ethnicity.
- To provide an understanding of the nature and scope of perspectives and scholarship within the arts/humanities and to appreciate the importance of these perspectives and scholarship toward understanding of human experience

Area C Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course students will:

1. apply discipline- specific vocabulary and central discipline- specific concepts and principles to a specific instance, literary work or artistic creation.
2. respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will differentiate between emotional and intellectual responses.

3. explain the nature and scope of the perspectives and contributions found in a particular discipline within the Arts and Humanities as related to the human experience, both individually (theirs) and collectively.

Arts-specific SLO:

4. demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual, imaginative, and cultural elements involved in the creative arts through their (or, “as a result of their”) participation in and study of drama, music, studio art and/or creative writing.

Repertoire

You can look forward to playing a variety of wind band repertoire, drawing from many historical periods and genres of music. While the majority will comprise pieces from the traditional, core repertoire of the concert band, you may also be playing some unfamiliar works. I encourage you to be open-minded about new repertoire and new approaches to rehearsal. It’s our group, not my group, and I want you to grow musically and enjoy your Symphonic Band experience.

We will occasionally work on repertoire that employs a smaller number of players than usual. When you are not required to participate, you do not need to attend the portion of the rehearsal in which that piece is being rehearsed. However, I encourage you to use the time to work on other band music.

Responsibilities

Your primary obligation is to come prepared to rehearsals and performances. By “prepared” I mean:

1. Bring materials such as instrument, music, accessories (extra reeds, mutes, mallets), and a pencil.
2. Know your music! A wiser person than me has said: “Rehearsals are for learning everyone else’s parts, not your own part.” You can learn those other parts better if you already know your own.
3. Attend all rehearsals, and be on time.

All students are required to meet at least twice monthly, on average, in sectional rehearsals. In addition, there will be occasional written assignments that will be explained in class.

Section Leaders

Each section will have a leader chosen by the conductor. The responsibilities of the section leader include scheduling and leading sectional rehearsals, acting as a liaison between your section and the conductor, and managing the distribution and collection of music. Section leaders will sometimes assign parts to players, though the assignments, especially solo parts, are subject to change by the conductor.

Rehearsal Etiquette

All musicians are expected to maintain focus on the music during rehearsals. Matters such as how many chairs belong in the third row, what time the next concert will end, and conversations among band members are best saved for before or after class. Stay focused, especially during tough rehearsal grinds.

Attendance and Punctuality

Arrive no later than 3:00 so that you are prepared for a 3:05 downbeat. I encourage you to be in FRH several minutes earlier, between 2:45 and 2:55 if possible, for individual warm-up. Rehearsals will end at 4:50. When you anticipate a schedule conflict, e-mail me before the relevant rehearsal. When an absence cannot be predicted, explain the reason to me as soon as possible afterwards. A qualified substitute is most welcome, and goes a long way toward compensating for your absence. If more than three absences occur during the term, you risk receiving a grade of NC (no credit) for the class.

Grading

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| Attendance, punctuality, and participation..... | 15% |
| Playing tests | 30% |
| Performance skills as demonstrated in regular rehearsals..... | 20% |
| Homework..... | 20% |
| Final exam, December 2 performance..... | 15% |

2016 Fall Semester Performances

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| Saturday, October 8 | with Jazz Orchestra | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, October 9 | music of Libby Larsen | 2:00 p.m. |
| Friday, December 2 | | 8:00 p.m. |

All performances are in Fulkerson Recital Hall.

Dress Code for Performances

Men: tuxedo, meaning white shirt, black bow tie, black slacks, black dress shoes
Women: black dress, or black top with black skirt over the knees

Format for all Written Work

With the exception of notes taken in class, all written work should be word-processed. Use a standard font such as Times, New Times Roman, Courier, or Helvetica, in size 12, and print out in black ink.

Style Manual

Follow all guidelines for formatting, punctuation, and grammar as indicated in a particular style manual of your choice. The preferred manual for this class is APA, 5th edition, but you are free to use any current style manual, including online tools.

Add/Drop Deadline: Monday, September 5 at 11:59 p.m.

Note that HSU has an earlier deadline starting this semester for adding or dropping a class.

More detailed information about policies and procedures related to HSU courses may be found here:

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resources-policies>