

# SYLLABUS

# MUSE 135: JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE

**Required Text: None**

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- perform in an ensemble with emphasis on stylistic interpretations of jazz vocal repertoire.
- demonstrate technical skill when performing repertoire
- demonstrate confidence and stage presence
- demonstrate aesthetic judgement
- analyze essential jazz vocal repertoire

## **PERFORMANCE SKILLS –**

All students, regardless of career plans, should grow in musicianship during their time at UNLV. Performance skills encompass technical skill with your voice, ability to perform in an ensemble, confidence on stage presence, and, perhaps most importantly, aesthetic judgment.

## **BASIC MUSICIANSHIP & KNOWLEDGE OF LITERATURE**

In this ensemble, you will develop your ability to hear, analyze, and read: all essential to musical study and the music profession. We will also address issues of music history, primarily jazz history, connecting our work to the broad liberal background of the university as a whole.

## **ATTENDANCE - “We Are What We Do.”**

Students will attend rehearsal on a regular basis and will participate in three performances during the semester.

## **PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION. Never miss a rehearsal without notifying the director.**

Use the cell phone number listed above. Take the time to leave a message. To be absent without accounting for oneself is inexcusable; this reflects upon your personal integrity and also hurts the musical progress and overall wellness of the choir. If you choose to “drop out” mid-semester, you choose to not be accepted back into the choir the next year. Special circumstances will be made at the discretion of the director. If conflicts arise, it is the students’ responsibility to prioritize the performance with the jazz ensemble and/or communicate with the UNLV Professors involved prior to the performance date(s). Work will never be considered an excused absence.

## Course Description

This vocal jazz course consists of the primary performance and the regular rehearsals needed to prepare. Additional preparation time may be needed (sectionals), outside of the Wednesday rehearsal.

## Course Materials

A pencil and music are required in each rehearsal. Students are asked to return all ensemble music at the end of the semester.

## Course Requirements & Expectations

### REHEARSALS

All members are expected to come to rehearsal and the concert ready to give their honest best. This expectation includes attendance, punctuality, proper materials (music and pencil), mental focus, appropriate preparation, and physical effort. Our potential is exponentially increased when these basic guidelines are met.

### CONCERTS

Concerts are an essential part of the performance based class. Participation in these concerts is absolutely mandatory to earn any credit in this course. Further, attendance at the complete dress rehearsal is also required. Those who do not attend the dress rehearsal can not perform and, therefore, will also receive no credit for the course.

### UNIFORMS

The UNLV Vocal Jazz Ensemble will purchase a specific uniform. Men will wear a black dress shirt, a black vest, a uniform red tie, and black pants. Men should also purchase black dress shoes and black socks. Ladies will wear a black suit and red blouse. Ladies should also purchase black dress shoes and black nylons/tights.

### LISTENING

Students will be given a weekly listening assignment. If the student does not have access to Youtube, the instructor will send the listening example to the student via email.

## Grading Policy

**\*All undergraduate music majors must achieve a minimum grade of C- (minus) in all music courses (MUS, MUSA and MUSE) required to complete the student's degree.**

Your grade is based upon your contribution in terms of:

- 1) Accurate and thorough musical preparation. Singing "check-ups" of repertoire may take place throughout the semester. Remember, perfect practice makes perfect performance.
- 2) Attendance and punctuality. Rehearsal absences that are unexcused may result in the following semester grades:
  - \*One absence with appropriate documentation may be excused.
  - \*1 Unexcused absence = B, 2 = C, 3 = D, 4 = F
  - \*3 tardies (arriving late to, or leaving early from, a rehearsal or a performance call time) = 1 unexcused absence
  - \*Absence from any final dress rehearsal or the one semester performance is grounds for a failing grade in the class.
  - \*Proper concert attire at all performances, in cleaned and pressed condition.
  - \*If the rehearsal is missed because of observance of a religious holiday, the student may make-up the work.

<http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>
- 3) **An academic hold may be placed on your university registration, transcripts may be withheld and/or your grade in this class may be lowered or denied if the student fails to return music by announced deadline or fails to pay for lost/damaged music by announced deadline.**
- 4) Work Ethic. Note: ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE SILENCED/TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY DURING THE REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE. GUM IS NOT ALLOWED IN ANY REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE VENUE. PLEASE REMOVE TONGUE/LIP PIERCINGS BEFORE ENTERING A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE.
- 5) Encourage and support other members of this ensemble.

**Class Attendance & Rehearsal Participation** = 40%  
**Performance** = 60%

**Grading Scale**

**A = 95-100%**

**A- = 90-94%** (Superior work; unusual degree of initiative)

**B+ = 87-89%**

**B = 83-86%** (Good; above average work)

**B- = 80-82%**

**C+ = 77-79%**

**C = 73-76%** (Average work; fulfilling minimum requirements)

**C- = 70-72%**

**F = 0-69%**

(Unacceptable work for a passing grade)

**UNLV POLICIES (see next page)**

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

### Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is

[https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Any other class specific information**—(e.g., absences, make-up exams, status reporting, extra credit policies, plagiarism/cheating consequences, policy on electronic devices, specialized department or college tutoring programs, bringing children to class, policy on recording classroom lectures, etc.)