GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course No. and Yr.: MUS 268 | MUS 450M—Fall 2020

COURSE NAME and DESCRIPTION

Illinois Wind Symphony (WS) Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor. Through rehearsal and performance of a variety of carefully selected chamber wind literature, students will increase their knowledge and experience base with focus on professional outcomes and standards to service career objectives of future professional performers and educators. The Wind Symphony is open to all University of Illinois students on an auditioned basis. Ensemble placement and repertoire/part assignments are determined by audition and faculty recommendations, and are intended to provide the most appropriate educational experience for each individual student’s development. This course may be repeated for credit. This Fall, as a result of COVID-19, all ensembles will be chamber groups, with a maximum size of 20—most being 5-12. Your safety is our most important concern. We will observe social distancing, with many rehearsals being outside. The length of rehearsals will be severely curtailed. Generally, students will be assigned to 1-3 ensembles, depending on instrument and need. We will do our very best to provide the highest quality experience for all.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Dr. Stephen G. Peterson, conductor
Harding Band Building Office: Room 140
Music Building Office: Room 4056
217-333-3025
sptrsn@illinois.edu

SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION

General Class Schedule: Monday 1:00 pm–3:50 pm and Wednesday 1:00 pm–3:50 pm. *Rehearsals are in Harding Band Building, Room 141, unless otherwise noted on the weekly rehearsal schedule. Consult the on-line weekly rehearsal schedule regularly for information.

Attendance Requirements: Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances listed in the syllabus or posted as an addendum. There are no absences allowed. However, sickness and extenuating circumstances may occur. In these situations, please contact the conductor immediately. If you have a recital on the same date, you are expected to be in rehearsal, but will be allowed to rest during rehearsal rather than play. The school policy is school ensembles first, external jobs second.

Music: Music is supplied by University of Illinois Department of Bands. Music and folders are on loan to students for each concert rotation. Because of COVID19, all music will be distributed as copies to minimize touchpoints, so music will not be returned at the completion of the course.
Course Goals: To address, rehearse, and perform wind ensemble/band music from various periods and to grow as performers and educators through participation in various-sized ensembles. It is intended that this course be a fusion arena for all other music curricula.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who have successfully completed this course should:

- Perform at a high level of proficiency as a soloist, section member, and ensemble member;
- Understand the concepts of good intonation, balance between melodic and accompaniment lines, balance between players, instrumental blend and tone color;
- Understand the concepts of phrasing, dynamics, articulation, rhythmic precision and ensemble clarity as it relates to quality performance;
- Appreciate quality wind band repertoire;
- Work creatively and collaboratively with others;
- Better understand the process of large ensemble sequential rehearsing and pacing in relation to short- and long-term performance goals

Student Expectations:

- Be early, be prepared musically, be warmed up and tuned.
- Come to rehearsal open-minded and ready to learn in ways that you might not understand.
- Use your time in rehearsal to become a better musician: listen actively, understand your role and how your part fits with others in your section, and the ensemble.
- Know where the melody and focal point of the music is at all times and protect it by playing with appropriate balance.
- Stay quiet and focused. Respect the rehearsal process and those in the rehearsal.

Method and Frequency of Evaluations: Attendance supplies the basis grade to which Individual Performance and Professionalism grades are added. Students are evaluated throughout the semester in all three areas.

Grading Method: Each student should read the schedule of events for the entire semester including dress rehearsals, recordings, and concerts. The website postings will be considered accurate—Dates and Times Are Subject to Change—check often. Grades will be based on the following criteria:

1. Individual performance preparation for daily rehearsal and concert performance (80% of grade)
2. Living up to expected ensemble standards (Professionalism) (20% of grade)

- Rehearsal habits (i.e. no cell phones, hats, food, drink in rehearsal, etc.)
- Punctuality (i.e. rehearsals, call times, travel departures, etc.)
- Individual, Section, and Group responsibility
- Concert dress requirements, etc.
***Note that concerts, dress rehearsals, and recording sessions cannot be made up, and missing one may result in failure of the entire course. These are capstone events and are weighted as such within the construct above. One should expect their grade to be lowered one letter for each unexcused absence from rehearsal.

A NOTE ABOUT PREPARATION: The quality of your experience in the Wind Symphony (or any other group, for that matter) is directly related to the amount of energy and preparation you devote to the music. Our rehearsals will be efficient, exciting, energetic, enjoyable, and challenging, ONLY if EACH of you is fully prepared technically, musically, and emotionally to give your very best. The music we will explore together deserves nothing less. Rehearsals are not to be treated as practice sessions. Each of us MUST learn our music outside of the rehearsal block. This is the key to great music-making and challenging rehearsals. Don’t ever allow yourself to be the one who holds us back. Like so many things in life, you will gain from this experience only as much as you are willing to invest in it.

CONCERT DRESS: The format of any concerts is still uncertain, so we will address concert dress as details become clear.

QUESTIONS: I am pleased to assist with your questions about ensemble and / or repertoire. Please do not hesitate to ask. Please use available professional staff and TAs for basic operations questions.

- Music and Instruments: All Wind Band Conducting TAs
- General Information and Room Booking: Main Office

PRINCIPALS: If you are assigned as the “principal” of a section, please communicate with the conductor as you see the need to ask questions, voice concerns, or share suggestions. Information benefits everyone. Principals may be asked to run “in-class” sectionals from time to time, and possibly one "out of class" sectional per concert rotation. Principals may also be consulted regarding part assignments within their section.

NOTE: Never schedule to play a recital or job on the same date as an IWS performance. Call times, dress rehearsals, and the like vary depending on the complexities of the performance. IWS performances are major school performances. Booking a recital on the same day is simply not smart for you and a disservice to everyone else in the ensemble.

WEBSITE: Check the UI Bands Website at bands.illinois.edu for lots of information including concert repertoire, reference recordings, weekly rehearsal schedule, and other useful items. Note your weekly rehearsal schedule website tab and bookmark it for easy access. It will be posted on Friday of each week with specific rehearsal times for every work so that you can prepare for rehearsals, and use your time intelligently when you may not be assigned to a particular work. This mechanism is intended to offer you the ability to plan professionally, and demonstrates a true respect for your time. Although timing often runs to the minute, please be flexible to start up to ten min. early or ten min. late on a particular work within the confines of the class time. The flow and progress of a specific rehearsal moment will not be disturbed by the micro-schedule. The micro-schedule within rehearsal is a basic design to help you plan and keep us in a proper schedule flow.
Concert Schedule:
We hope to present two concert cycles this semester, although this will be determined as the semester proceeds, due to COVID19. Concerts would be very informal, and would simply be a presentation of material as it becomes “concert ready,” most likely broadcast through Facebook Live, simply for parents and friends.

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS, AND INCLUSION

The University of Illinois Bands regards diversity, equity, and access as core values integral to guiding our progress toward excellence. We embrace a broad and comprehensive concept of diversity that serves as a springboard toward mutual understanding. We appreciate diversity as a strength and intentionally cultivate an inclusive climate in our daily endeavors as faculty, staff, and students. We are committed to respecting differences; accepting multiple perspectives; and striving to identify, disrupt, and rectify bias, prejudice, and oppression in our classrooms and community.

We recognize that each person expresses and experiences gender and sexuality in a variety of ways. For this reason, we aim to utilize language that is both non-sexist and gender inclusive. This attentiveness to identity creates a space where our transgender/non-binary students feel safe and honored and our cisgender students are provided with and awareness of the gender expansiveness that they may experience throughout their musical careers.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Code should also be considered as a part of this syllabus. Students should pay particular attention to Article 1, Part 4: Academic Integrity. Read the Code at the following URL: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/.

Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/. Ignorance is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor(s) if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the as soon as possible. To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class should contact Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and see the instructor as soon as possible. If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, or make an appointment to see me, or see me during my office hours. DRES provides students with academic accommodations, access, and support services. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TDD), or e-mail a message to disability@uiuc.edu. http://www.disability.illinois.edu/.

Run > Hide > Fight

Emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. It is important that we take a minute to prepare for a situation in which our safety or even our lives could depend on our ability to react quickly. When we’re faced with almost any kind of emergency – like severe weather or if someone is trying to hurt you – we have three options: Run, hide, or fight.

Run

Leaving the area quickly is the best option if it is safe to do so.

- Take time now to learn the different ways to leave your building.
- Leave personal items behind.
- Assist those who need help, but consider whether doing so puts yourself at risk.
- Alert authorities of the emergency when it is safe to do so.

Hide

When you can’t or don’t want to run, take shelter indoors.

- Take time now to learn different ways to seek shelter in your building.
- If severe weather is imminent, go to the nearest indoor storm refuge area.
- If someone is trying to hurt you and you can’t evacuate, get to a place where you can’t be seen, lock or barricade your area if possible, silence your phone, don’t make any noise and don’t come out until you receive an Illini-Alert indicating it is safe to do so.
Fight

As a last resort, you may need to fight to increase your chances of survival.

- Think about what kind of common items are in your area which you can use to defend yourself.
- Team up with others to fight if the situation allows.
- Mentally prepare yourself – you may be in a fight for your life.

Please be aware of people with disabilities who may need additional assistance in emergency situations.

Other resources

- [https://police.illinois.edu/safe](https://police.illinois.edu/safe) for more information on how to prepare for emergencies, including how to run, hide, or fight, and building floor plans that can show you safe areas.
- [https://emergency.illinois.edu](https://emergency.illinois.edu) to sign up for Illini-Alert text messages.
- **Follow the University of Illinois Police Department** on Twitter and Facebook to get regular updates about campus safety.