

**George Mason University**  
**Symphonic Band**  
**Spring 2012**

Director: Dr. Brian C. Wuttke  
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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00 PM  
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Meeting Days: M 7:20 – 10:00 PM  
Course Code: MUSI 383 (undergraduate)  
MUSI 683 (graduate: additional responsibilities apply)

**Curriculum Bulletin Course Description**

The opportunity for performing concert band literature through participation in the college band. Emphasis is on music originally composed for bands. It may be repeated for credit.

**Course Objectives**

The student will realize the following knowledge:

- Abbreviation and meaning of musical terms, signs, and symbols.
- Compositional structure of musical form.
- Historical relevance of the musical time and/or style period of the composition.

The student will demonstrate the following skills:

- Advanced fundamental performance techniques including, but not limited to: tone production, intonation, melodic execution, rhythmic execution, balance, blend, and stylistic precision.
- Musical performance techniques including, but not limited to: dynamic expression, interpretive tempo expressions, phrasing, note grouping, and applying musical style.

The student will be encouraged to develop the following dispositions:

- An interest and willingness to objectively explore unfamiliar musical styles.
- An interest in improving technical and musical ability.
- An interest in expanding musical preferences.
- An appreciation for the value of punctuality, dependability, preparedness and professionalism.

**Required Text**

There is no required text for this course. Music provided in folders is not to be taken from the rehearsal room. Part copies will be made available to students on Blackboard.

**Course Website**

An informational website is available to all members of the ensemble at: <http://band4me.blogspot.com/>

All members are encouraged to take advantage of this resource and subscribe to the e-mail updates so as to receive all of the latest information regarding the ensembles rehearsal and performance schedule.

The course syllabus, calendar, supplemental materials are also available to registered students enrolled for credit on Blackboard.

### Materials

A working instrument, with all accessories, music, a pencil and all other equipment pertinent to performance is required at every rehearsal and performance. The use of portable electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, etc.) is not permitted during rehearsals or performances. They must be turned off or set on silence mode. They are not permitted on music stands.

### Seating

Seating and chair placements occur at the beginning of each semester as posted on the GMU School of Music website at: <http://music.gmu.edu/> Seating assignments may be adjusted throughout the semester for attendance issues, to adjust balance and to promote performers who have demonstrated advancement in skills. All seating and chair placements are at the sole discretion of the Director.

### Concert Attire

Women: Black concert dress, or black business outfit with blouse (white or black). Black dress shoes.

Men: Tuxedo or black suit or sport coat/black pants combination with white long-sleeved shirt, black tie. Black dress shoes and black socks.

### Evaluation and Grading Policy for Registered Students

#### Points Description

50 Concert Performance on 11/15 (Proper attire required)

50 Attendance at Rehearsals (refer to the Attendance Policy for more information)

100 points maximum. Use the following chart to convert the final point total to a letter grade.

90-100	A	IN or "Incomplete" will not be issued for this course.
80-89	B	
70-79	C	Make-up work absences from rehearsal or missed performances will not be provided.
60-69	D	
0-59	F	

Students taking this course for credit may check their academic progress in this course by logging onto the online grade book (<http://www.engage.com>) and entering their personalized access code. Students are encouraged to check their academic and attendance records regularly and report any perceived discrepancies to the instructor.

### Graduate Credit

Graduate students will be assigned leadership responsibilities including, but not limited to: coaching/mentoring students who need help with their part music, teaching sectionals and performing chamber music . In addition, graduate students will be asked to prepare written notes describing the music being prepared and/or performed to be placed in the program or announced at the concert. On occasion exceptional students will be asked to perform a solo with band accompaniment in rehearsal or the concert.

## Attendance Policy

- **Students will forfeit 10 points for each absence from rehearsal.**
- **Students will forfeit 5 points for each tardy from rehearsal (considered an absence after 30 minutes).**

Students are expected to attend every class meeting and to arrive on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. All assignments are due on or before the date noted on the calendar. More than three (3) absences may result in a failing grade. Being tardy to rehearsals or performances more than six (6) times may result in a failing grade. There is no provision for making up rehearsal or performance experiences. Circumstances interfering with this policy will be dealt with as follows:

### School Closure

Official GMU campus closures are not considered an absence. Students are encouraged to sign-up for the Mason Alert System at <https://alert.gmu.edu>

### Religious Holidays, Jury Duty, Rehearsals and Performance Call Times

Students with these conflicts must communicate with the instructor in person, by phone or by email prior to missing class. Performances outside of GMU or not appearing on the School of Music Calendar, failure to communicate conflicts prior to missing a rehearsal or performance (even if legitimate), last minute or extra rehearsals/performances will not receive this consideration. Support documentation may be required at the discretion of the instructor.

### Illness, Injury and Death in the Family

An absence caused by a certifiable emergency -illness or injury to self or family or death in the immediate family- may be cause for excusing an absence. This is at the discretion of the instructor. Students must:

- a) Demonstrate a reasonable effort in notifying the instructor in person, by phone or by email prior to missing class (sending a note or message to the instructor via a classmate does not qualify).
- b) Provide the instructor with support documentation verifying the absence upon return to class.

The instructor is not obligated to remind the student to provide documentation and documentation will not be accepted more than five days after a return to class or after the last class session (whichever comes first). Doctor, dental, orthodontic appointments and other elective procedures that are not considered emergencies need to be scheduled at times that do not interfere with class.

### Work

This is not an acceptable excuse to miss any rehearsal or performance.

## Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474) at the beginning of the semester, and the specific accommodation will be arranged through ODS.

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