Angelo State University  
Department of Visual and Performing Arts  
Symphonic Band; MUEN 1112/3112; 1 credit hour; TR 1:30pm – 2:45pm; Carr EFA 134

SYLLABUS, Spring 2020
Dr. Jonathan D. Alvis, Director of Bands
Carr EFA Building Room: 136  325-486-6037 (office)  jonathan.alvis@angelo.edu
Office hours are posted outside of Dr. Alvis’ office.

Catalogue Description
Performance experience in the concert band medium. Open to all students with three years of high school experience or equivalent.

Mission and Rationale
The Angelo State University Bands are a uniquely diverse group of performing ensembles. The mission of the ASU Bands is dedicated to the teaching, performance, study, and cultivation of the highest quality of music. Through exemplary practices in organization, training, and presentation, the ASU Bands strive to provide effective experiences in musical education and in music culture to prepare its members to be leaders in the music profession, both education and performance, and lifelong musicians. The ASU Bands seek to offer outstanding performances throughout the year that enhance the institutional spirit and character of ASU. The ASU Bands seek to bring increasing artistry, understanding, and respect through performance and service efforts within our own immediate sphere and by providing leadership and sponsorship to secondary school band programs and through cooperation with all other agencies pursuing similar musical goals.

The Angelo State University Symphonic Band is an ensemble comprised of music majors on primary and secondary instruments as well as ASU students not majoring in music with no audition required to participate. The band provides an educational experience and serves as a musical outlet for students who wish to remain musically active in a less intense setting. The literature selected in this ensemble consists of a wide range of difficulty levels that is selected, in part, to provide music education students resources that can be used upon entering the profession - much like a “music education band literature course.”

Course Goals and Outcomes
During this course, students will:
1. Produce high quality performances that include a wide variety of literature written, transcribed, or arranged for wind bands. Literature will include new works and standards of the repertoire.
2. Gain an understanding and commitment to working as part of a team and how the individual can contribute to produce the highest quality performance.
3. Produce quality recordings that students and others can use as reference resources in the music education and performance profession.

Required Materials
Music will be distributed at the beginning of each concert cycle. Each member is responsible for the care of each folder. Students should avoid mutilating music, including excessive markings, using ink or colored pencil to make markings, unnecessary folding of the pages, etc. If music is not returned in acceptable condition, the member may be required to replace the music at their own expense. Failure to return the music (including copies) and folder will result in a hold being placed on the student’s account. Each member of the ensemble must bring his/her music to rehearsal. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

Each member is required to bring a pencil to rehearsal. The director will provide a pencil at the first rehearsal for the student to leave in his/her folder. Ink pen, highlighter, or other permanent marking devices are not acceptable. Often, the director will provide corrections or edits that will need to be performed. The student must mark these changes so time cannot be wasted in rehearsal repeating comments. The rehearsal time for this ensemble is limited. Therefore, each member must take personal responsibility to arrive at each rehearsal prepared to rehearse and not “practice.”
The rehearsal situation is designed to address issues within the full ensemble or sections across the band, not prepare individuals. Adequate time MUST be spent outside of the rehearsal to prepare individual parts so rehearsal time can most effectively be used. If an individual is not prepared, he or she may be asked to leave rehearsal to spend individual time preparing. The director will email and post the rehearsal schedule for the week so the proper preparation can occur.

Each member must number each measure of all pieces being played. The director will refer to specific measures to accelerate the rehearsal process. It is imperative that each member be able to identify specific measures within the music immediately.

Rehearsal Technique

Rehearsals must run efficiently. To do this, the ensemble must have excellent rehearsal technique. Failure to adhere to the following guidelines may result in dismissal from the rehearsal. Repeated offenses may result in dismissal from the ensemble. The following must be adhered to in each rehearsal without exception:

1. Arrive at each rehearsal on time and prepared. Place your music in the order shown on the board/posted rehearsal schedule. Being on time means that you are late. If a member is not in his/her seat when the choral is played, he/she will be considered tardy.
2. Have a pencil and immediately mark any changes the directors makes. You will not remember. If there is a question about the correction/comment, or more time is needed, raise your hand and ask the director for more time.
3. Keep the talking to a minimum - especially when the director is speaking. (You honestly have very little reason to talk during rehearsal, this should not be an issue.)
4. Pay attention to ALL corrections in style, dynamics, articulations, etc. made by the director. Even though he may not be directly addressing you, the changes may apply to you later in the work. You may also learn something about how to fix a problem in rehearsals or personal practice, learn to rehearse an ensemble, etc. Use the rehearsal to not only prepare/improve the Symphonic Band literature, but also become a better musician. You never know what you can learn by listening.
5. Absolutely no cell phones permitted during rehearsal.
6. It is not acceptable to leave the room during rehearsal. Only leave rehearsal in an emergency situation. Leaving during rehearsal is very distracting and unprofessional and will not be tolerated.

Concert Etiquette and Attire

A concert is our opportunity to demonstrate our progress and hard work throughout the semester to those in attendance. We have few opportunities to demonstrate how successful and professional we are. Before the concert, the following expectations must be followed:

1. Arrive before the announced call time and make sure you have all needed materials on stage. Keep your music in concert order.
2. Play only music that will be played on the concert at an appropriate and acceptable volume.
3. Do not speak to audience members from the stage. You may visit with them, but do so in the lobby of the auditorium/performance space.
4. Do not come on and off stage repeatedly. Once you are on stage, stay in your seat and be professional.
5. During the concert, act like the professional that you are. Do not dance, conduct, sing along, or do any other distracting actions that will detract from the experience of the members of the ensemble or the audience. Between pieces, prepare for the next piece as quickly and quietly as possible. If a seat change is necessary, move carefully and quietly as not to knock anything or anyone over.
6. Following the concert, EVERYONE must help tear down, including the moving of percussion equipment. Each member is responsible for his/her own chair and stand.

Concert attire for the Wind Ensemble is all black, also called “pit black.” Closed toed black shoes are required. Men wear long sleeves. Ladies, shoulders must be covered and the cut of the blouse must be conservative. Slacks (preferred) or a long dress are also required. If wearing a skirt, the knee must be covered while sitting. If you must question whether it is acceptable to wear, it is not. Failure to meet this dress code may result in a lower of the letter grade by two (2) letters and the student will be required to leave the concert stage until proper attire is worn.
Attendance Policy
Students are allowed two excused absences throughout the semester. Absences must be excused by Dr. Alvis before 11:00 am the morning of the rehearsal. If a student is sick, a doctor’s note must be provided for the absence to be excused. Each unexcused absence will result in the final grade being lowered by one letter and a $50 reduction of the Wind Ensemble Scholarship. Only 1 unexcused absence is permitted during the semester. If a second occurs, the student may be dismissed from the ensemble and the scholarship will be revoked. Excessive absences will result in dismissal from the ensemble without exception. All performances and dress rehearsals, however, are mandatory. An absence of any kind from a performance (including commencement) or dress rehearsal will result in an “F” for the semester and dismissal from the ensemble. Unforeseen circumstances are understandable and the instructor must be notified as soon as possible. Only the most extreme circumstances will allow for an absence from a performance or dress rehearsal to be excused. The instructor reserves the right to excuse or not excuse an absence, no matter the circumstance. Under no circumstance is work an acceptable reason to miss a rehearsal or performance. Two unexcused tardies will result in an unexcused absence.

Grading
The final grade will be based upon attendance, preparation, and participation throughout the semester, in addition to other criteria and policies that have been outlined in this syllabus.

Course Schedule
The schedule for the semester has been included below. Each student is expected to keep a calendar with all of these dates and notify the director immediately via email if there is a conflict of any kind. Work is not considered a conflict and will not be excused for any reason. Each member of the ensemble should provide their place of work this schedule immediately so no conflicts will arise. If a change must be made, the director will notify the ensemble as soon as possible. If a change is made 14 or more calendar days before the event, no consideration will be given to requests for absences due to work. If less than 14 days are given, consideration may be given by the director but the student must make every effort to attend. In the event a student is unable to rearrange his/her schedule to avoid the conflict, proof must be given to the director (an email or phone call from the boss/supervisor). When in doubt, talk to the director, he is a nice guy that is willing to help you out in a pinch if he can.

Tues., Mar. 2 Symphonic Band Dress Rehearsal, 7:00, University Auditorium
Tues., Mar. 3 Concert #1 “Through a Child’s Eyes,” 7:00, University Auditorium
Sat., Mar. 28 Day of Instruments, 9:00-5:00
Mon., Apr. 27 Symphonic Band dress rehearsal, 7:00, University Auditorium
Tues., Apr. 28 Concert #2 “Ride On: Masterworks for Young Bands,” 7:00, University Auditorium

Instruments
The University has some instruments available for students to check out. Arrangements to check out an instrument can be made with the director or instrument manager. Any damage to a university instrument due to misuse is the financial responsibility of the student. The instrument must be returned at the end of each semester unless other arrangements are made. Failure to return instruments will result in a hold being placed on your university account.

University Policies
Student Disability Services
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.
Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA.

Title IX at Angelo State University
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form. If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Student Observance of Religious Holy Days
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Student Conduct Policies
Students are expected to adhere to all policies found within the Student Handbook. That document can be found at: https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/