Middle Tennessee State University Wind Ensemble
Dr. Reed Thomas, Conductor
Music MUEN 5120 – 001, 002
Fall 2015, Course Syllabus

Dr. Reed Thomas, Professor of Conducting, Director of Bands
reed.thomas@mtsu.edu
WMB 155
615-898-2993 (Band Office)
615-330-6187 (Cell)
Office Hours: TR 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment

Brittany Howard (GTA)
bph2s@mtmail.mtsu.edu
678-849-8606 (Cell)

Martin Gaines (GTA)
mig2j@mtmail.mtsu.edu
229-516-0465 (Cell)

I. PHILOSOPHY
The Wind Ensemble is a laboratory course designed for the development of the professional musician and professional educator. Membership is comprised of the finest wind, brass, and percussion musicians from MTSU; and as such, performance repertoire for the ensemble will be of the highest caliber. The goal of this organization, in rehearsal and performance, is to achieve a high degree of learning and performance excellence. This ensemble performs on and off campus. Rehearsals will consist of work on musical, technical, and stylistic nuance. It is the responsibility of the conductor and performer to be prepared for each rehearsal. It is only through careful preparation that the goals of this organization can be achieved.

II. PREREQUISITES:
Successful audition and invitation from director.

III. REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
Tuesday, Thursday 2:05 – 4:05
WMB MH

The updated weekly rehearsal schedule will be posted on the bulletin board outside of WMH 150 prior to each Tuesday’s rehearsal. Members of the organization are expected to be ready for each rehearsal. Due to the flexible instrumentation requirements, careful observation of this schedule is essential to a productive and professional rehearsal process. Check the website and bulletin board often and regularly for special information or changes in the rehearsal schedule.

IV. PERFORMANCE/DRESS REHEARSAL DATES
OPENING CONCERT: Thursday, September 17, 2015, Hinton Hall 7:30 pm
MID-SEMESTER JOINT CONCERT: Thursday, October 8, 2015, Hinton Hall 7:30 pm
FINAL SEMESTER CONCERT: Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Hinton Hall, 7:30 pm.

V. RECORDING DATES/PHOTO SHOOT
PHOTO SHOOT: Tuesday, October 15, 2015 3:00
RECORDING SESSION: TBA
Being selected as a member of the MTSU Wind Ensemble carries certain expectations of excellence and commitment from the director and other members of the ensemble. Course expectations and grading procedures are designed to grant the student maximum benefit from taking this course and to elevate the ensemble to its highest possible level.

Grades will be calculated on the following scale:

- Performances 40%
- The quality of individual and sectional preparation of repertoire during rehearsal 25%
  - Two 1-hour sectional rehearsals for concert #1
  - Two 1-hour sectional rehearsals for concert #2
  - Two 1-hour sectional rehearsals for concert #3
- Attitude/Musical Growth 15%
- Attendance 20%

**Preparation**

Students are expected to come to rehearsal with individual parts prepared. The rehearsal schedule is posted a minimum of three weeks in advance so you can be aware of what exactly needs to be prepared for each rehearsal. Periodic in class quizzes can be given at the discretion of the director. **Music, pencils and proper equipment** (reeds, mutes, sticks, tuner, etc.) **are REQUIRED** at all rehearsals. Failure to have these will result in one-third-grade drop.

**Repertoire Performance Tests:** Repertoire exams may be given during the semester, at the director’s discretion. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Musicians must achieve a score of 40 points or above to pass. Failed exams can be retaken within ONE week. It will be the student’s responsibility to schedule a make up exam with the director.

**Percussionists** are responsible for setting up your equipment PRIOR to every rehearsal and performance so that you are ready to begin on time. Percussionists are also responsible for returning instruments to appropriate storage area at the conclusion of all rehearsals and concerts.

**Section Leaders** are responsible for scheduling six 1-hour sectionals, 2 per concert. **Student** failure to attend a regularly scheduled sectional will adversely affect the final grade in the course. **Section leaders,** who do not meet their responsibilities as such, will be replaced at the director’s discretion.

**Participation**

The art of making music is dependant on active participation. One never knows when a musical moment might occur. Preparation, mental approach, and a positive attitude must be present before a musical moment can happen.

**Poor attitude** in rehearsal: up to three full letter grades deductions.
  - First warning: Section Leader or other member of ensemble (via director): one grade
  - Second Warning: Director: two grades.
  - Third time: three grades and dismissal from ensemble.
**Musical Growth**
The final product, the performance, determines this. Assessment of your individual growth and the maturation of the entire ensemble are measured in several ways. The quality of the performance is directly proportional to mental approach, preparation, and attitude.

**Attendance**
It is imperative that you be at every rehearsal so that the professionalism strived for can be achieved and maintained. Missed rehearsals damage the integrity of the entire ensemble. In case of serious illness or family emergency, students must notify the instructor PRIOR to the absence to be excused. Absences for illness will only be excused with a doctor’s written verification. You are allowed one excused absence without a grade deduction. This must be approved prior to the missed rehearsal. After that, grades may be dropped one-degree for each excused absence (e.g. A to A-). Each unexcused absence will result in a drop of one FULL letter grade (e.g. A to B). Incompletes will not be given.

To be excused, you must call the band office by 10:00 AM; otherwise it will be counted as an unexcused absence. Even when you call, a “Request for Excused Absence” form must be completed and turned in to the Wind Ensemble GTA. Discretion of the director will otherwise be employed. Conflicts with the rehearsal schedule need to be addressed in writing by the end of class on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

**Work and car trouble do not constitute excused absences!** In order for an absence to be considered excused, an official rehearsal excuse form must be submitted to the GTA in a timely manner.

**Tardiness Policy:** The professional habit of arriving early for rehearsal is the correct behavior. At the very minimum, rehearsals must begin on time with everyone present. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. Anyone not present when attendance is taken will be marked absent and unexcused. Students who arrive after rehearsal has begun must consult with the conductor immediately following the rehearsal. Early departure from a regular rehearsal will not be allowed. Each unexcused tardy will lower the final grade one degree as explained above under absences.

Tardiness for a Dress Rehearsal will result in a full grade drop for the first occurrence, if it happens a second time during a season, you will be dismissed from the class.

**Missed dress rehearsal:** Deduct two full letter grades and no participation in performance.

**Missing a performance:** automatic failure for the course and dismissal from the class.

**Excuse Forms:** For your protection and accurate record keeping, a “Request for Excused Absence” form MUST be completed prior to any missed rehearsal, emergencies excepted. For illness, disclosure of the illness is not required, as long as a physician verifies it. Forms are available from the Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA). Completed forms for illness or family emergencies must be submitted to the GTA within 3 days of missed rehearsal, otherwise it will not be considered for excusal. Please keep these to verify any grade discrepancies which might occur at the end of the semester.

**VII. MUSIC**
It is expected that music will be picked up prior to the first rehearsal for each new performance. MTSU will provide music and folders which will be available in the band library or assigned music slot. Each member will be assigned a folder and will be responsible for the folder and its contents. Fees will be assessed for lost music or music which is damaged due to excessive markings or negligence. Music MUST be returned with all pencil marks erased. Grades will be held and a financial hold will be placed on the student’s record until all fees are cleared.

**VIII. CONCERT DRESS**
See CONCERT DRESS link on MT Bands website. [www.mtfbands.com](http://www.mtfbands.com) Under Student Resources and Wind Ensemble.
IX. EQUIPMENT POLICY
Woodwind, brass and string student musicians who have been assigned to play an instrument they do not own, must report to the Instrument Check Out room (WMB 172) at least two (2) days prior to the first rehearsal for which the instrument is needed. Check out/in procedures will be explained and all necessary paperwork will be completed at that time. Percussionists should report to Professor Davila (WMB 156) at least two (2) days prior to the first rehearsal to determine access to the inventory. Pianists and harpists can expect an instrument to be provided and maintained as needed.

X. OTHER COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Check the bulletin board and website (www.mtbands.com) regularly for rehearsal schedules, announcements and other information.

- All members should register for the MTSU Wind Ensemble FANS Facebook page for important announcements throughout the semester. (https://www.facebook.com/groups/52200843756/)

- Rehearsals begin precisely at the designated time. It is your responsibility to be prepared and adequately warmed up prior to the downbeat.

- Food, drink (other than water) and excessive talking are not allowed during the rehearsal.

- A positive mental attitude is critical to your participation in this ensemble and will be reflected in your final grade. Individuals who are unable to comply with this requirement may be dismissed from the ensemble.

- Rehearsals are a time to make music and let the magic come to life. The better prepared each individual is for every rehearsal, the more likely a magical moment.

- All members of the Wind Ensemble must be registered for one of the available sections.

Email Address
All MTSU students are given an email address and there are many computer labs available for student use. As there are many times when I need to contact you individually or as a group, I will use the account the university gives you. It is important that you periodically check this account even if you use a different address not affiliated with MTSU. It is usually possible for you to have your email forwarded to an account you normally use from the MTSU account. You will be held responsible for any information I send out via the MTSU address I have access to. Please check your email regularly and respond accordingly to any correspondence from the band office.

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Lottery Scholarship Eligibility

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 cumulative GPA after 72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full-time and maintain a semester GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned; students who first received the lottery scholarship in Fall 2009 or later will additionally be limited to 120 TELS attempted hours. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form via RaiderNet, review lottery requirements on the web at www.mtsu.edu/scholarships/telsconteligibility_scholarships.shtml, or contact the Financial Aid Office at 898-2830

NB: This syllabus may be altered in the course of the semester at the discretion of the instructor. Rehearsals, Recordings and/or Performances may be added with a minimum of two weeks notice. Added dates will count the same as those listed above.

“There are no rehearsals, only mini concerts.” – Gunther Schuller