

Course Syllabus

Course Name and Number:	RIT Concert Band FNRT 252-01
Class Time and Location:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:45 pm SAU A130
Course Mode:	In-Person
Prerequisite(s):	Audition, previous course enrollment

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Mr. Dean Davis, Visiting Lecturer
Contact Information:	Office Location: TBD Campus Phone: TBD Cell Phone: (585) 208-4959 Email: dwdgsh@rit.edu
Contact Policy and Preferences:	Office hours: TBD Email correspondence will be addressed during normal business hours
Instructor-Student Communication	Communication will take place through myCourses and CampusGroups
Online Course Material/Course Webpage:	All course content will be in myCourses Course Webpage: rit.edu/concertband

Course Description

Catalog Description/Course Overview

The RIT Concert Band is an experiential-learning course in which students learn music theory and historical context by learning several works from the Concert Band literature including standard wind band literature, contemporary compositions, marches, and orchestral transcriptions. The ensemble prepares to perform three major concerts a year and also participates in departmental performances. Participation in learning and performing such music gives students an experiential appreciation and understanding of the role of music in modern society. Auditions will be held to assess proper placement.

Course Learning Outcomes

Because performing on a musical instrument engages vast areas of the brain, students will not only become better technicians of their instrument but also deepen their ability to explore and hone their artistry.

Teaching Philosophy

I tend to run a fast-paced rehearsal and strive to meaningfully involve students in the music-making process, formatively assessing their level of understanding and engagement. Students should be prepared to fully participate in this endeavor bringing their individual experiences and input to bear for the good of the whole.

Course Materials

The instructor will supply photocopies of the music for the students. Students must bring a 1” 3-ring binder and a pencil to all rehearsals and performances.

Course Schedule

Rehearsals will take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-7:45 pm in SAU A130 and Ingle Auditorium. As of this writing there are no planned class cancellations.

Grading/Evaluation

Overview

It is imperative that the student shall attend each and every rehearsal *and* performance. One cannot make up a rehearsal or performance, it's a live, free-flowing event. It is expected that a student will actively participate in rehearsals and performances using proper etiquette for each. Further, it is understood that there will be, from time to time, scheduled conflicts with other courses, tests, labs and the like. However, students must plan ahead when attempting to complete coursework for other classes so it will not conflict with rehearsal time. *Having to complete coursework, meeting with fellow students or other conflicts* are not *excusable absences*. It is the student's responsibility to contact the director by email, or if after 4:30 pm on the day of a rehearsal, by cell phone, to let him know he or she will not be in attendance. There will be writing assignments throughout the semester to check for student's understanding of musical elements and historical relevance to the Band's repertoire. Performances serve as an evaluative tool for the work done by the ensemble for the particular semester. Consequently, *attendance at performances is mandatory*, excused absences from performances will be allowed only at the discretion of the director and must be given at least two weeks prior to the particular performance.

Even if a student is not registered for the course, it is expected that he/she follows the above requirements and participates fully in the Band.

Components of Evaluation

Attendance is the primary component of evaluation for the course. However, it is incumbent upon the student to fully engage in the rehearsals and performances.

Students with unexcused absences from rehearsals and/or performances during a particular semester will have his or her grade lowered as follows:

- 3 unexcused absences = one letter grade reduction
- 4 unexcused absences = two letter grade reduction
- 5 or more unexcused absences = automatic course failure
- Unexcused absence from a performance = automatic course failure

For students participating in the Concert Band but not receiving course credit, it is expected that the same attendance requirements be met. If students cannot adhere to these requirements, he/she should not participate.

Expectations

From students

Students will be expected to:

- Arrive in time to be able to begin the rehearsal on time, 6:30 pm
- Have their music and a pencil for every rehearsal
- Be fully engaged in the rehearsal by avoiding using their phones or other electronic devices that would detract from their engagement and distract others around them
- Practice any sections of the Band music outside of rehearsal time with which they have difficulty

Time commitment

This will vary by individual. Beyond the required rehearsal time, students should be working to further master their instrument and their respective parts in the Band's repertoire.

Writing standards

Please proof your writing examples and e-mail messages before submitting them. I will grade for content, completeness, organization, spelling, grammar, and punctuation, as well as demonstration of knowledge gained in the course and your ability to apply it.

What students can expect

I am using the electronic grade book in **myCourses**, thus you will be able to check your current standing at any time. The participation grade will be updated periodically during the course.

Course Policies

Technology in the classroom

After the initial check via QR code, the students will generally not be required to be accessing their phones or other devices during the rehearsal. Please keep these devices on silent mode and stored away out of sight (and hopefully out of mind)

Online discussion protocols

There may be opportunities for class discussion on a particular rehearsal, music recordings and general topics in music. Students will take care to be concise, considerate and constructive in their comments.

Starfish

This course participates in the RIT Starfish academic alert system, which is designed to promote student success through communication between students, instructors, and advisors. I will send a whole-class status update to all students before the semester midpoint. When I am concerned about a student's academic performance, I may raise an academic alert to notify the student as well as their advisor(s). On the other hand, when a student is doing well I may send a "kudos" message. If you receive an academic alert email, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to discuss the issue, its potential impact on your success in the course, and identify people and resources to help you move forward. For more information about the Starfish system, visit <http://www.rit.edu/starfish>.

Academic Integrity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, RIT expects students to behave honestly and ethically at all times, especially when submitting work for evaluation in conjunction with any course or degree requirement. The Department of [NAME] encourages all students to become familiar with the [RIT Honor Code](#) and with [RIT's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Statement on Academic Adjustments

RIT is committed to providing academic adjustments to students with disabilities. If you would like to request academic adjustments such as testing modifications due to a disability, please contact the Disability Services Office. Contact information for the DSO and information about how to request adjustments can be found at www.rit.edu/dso. After you receive academic adjustment approval, it is imperative that you see me during office hours so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.

Statement on Title IX

Title IX violations are taken very seriously at RIT. RIT is committed to investigate complaints of sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual assault and other sexual misconduct to ensure that appropriate action is taken to stop the behavior, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Please view the [Title IX Rights and Resources at RIT](#).

Other Elements

Changes to the syllabus

I have provided this syllabus as a guide to our course and have made every attempt to provide an accurate overview of the course. However, as instructor, I reserve the right to modify this document during the semester, if necessary, to ensure that we achieve course learning objectives. You will receive advance notice of any changes to the syllabus through myCourses/email.

Concluding statement

You are in this “class” because you love playing in a Band. It is this love of music-making that brings us together to create memorable moments in time, to provide us with an outlet for our passion for music, gives us an appreciation for what each individual person brings to the whole and to thoughtfully and expressively bring our creations to our audience. I believe playing in a Band to be a high calling one that should be taken seriously while at the same time having a deep level of satisfaction and enjoyment for doing the work and creating something meaningful with other like-minded people.