TERM: Spring 2015

**COURSE INFORMATION**:

**Course Title:** MUSI 3131

**Credit & Format**: 1 Humanities Credit – 3 Lab Hours

**Time & Location**: Tuesday and Thursday 4:35-5:55pm, Couch Building, Room 115

**INSTRUCTOR:** Benjamin Diden

**Office:** 109E Couch Building

**Phone:** (404) 894-8951

**Email:** benjamin.diden@music.gatech.edu

**Office hours**: By appointment. See office door for schedule and/or email.

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:** MUSIC 3131 (SYMPHONIC BAND) provides advanced ensemble performance experiences in a wide range of musical styles and periods for all students at GT. The music performed in these organizations varies from semester to semester and is selected to provide a challenging opportunity for musical growth.

By rehearsing and performing at the highest possible level of artistry, each student will be challenged to improve his/her individual musicianship and ensemble skills. The highest quality repertoire for wind instruments will be the core of the curriculum, allowing for a wide variety in the musical, educational, and philosophical foundations of the course.

The Symphonic Band performs the important classics of the wind repertoire as well as excellent contemporary literature. As a regular participant in the commissioning of new works for winds, students will have the opportunity to perform new, advanced music for winds and interact with the composers of those works.

An auditioned instrumental ensemble focused upon the rehearsal, study and performance of traditional and contemporary music for winds and percussion. The purpose of the class is to develop:

1. An understanding of instrumental technique in theory and practice
2. The application of harmonic, structural and aural skills in relation to instrumental performance practice
3. An experience with and knowledge of various instrumental repertoire, including works from major style eras and genres
4. The ability to present polished and professional performance throughout the semester

Upon completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate and utilize proper instrumental technique
2. Read and understand traditional and contemporary musical symbols and notation
3. Discern, discuss and contextualize major genres of instrumental music
4. Apply harmonic and structural analysis in relation to instrumental performance
5. Compare and contrast the meaning of major texts from both Western and non-Western cultures
6. Recognize themselves as participants in a particular culture and see how this affects their experiences and values
7. Have the ability to critically appreciate historical and contemporary fine art forms as they relate to individual and social needs and values
8. Have the ability to apply knowledge of historical, social, and cultural influences to understanding a work of art
9. Express verbally and in written form, the value of the arts and their impact on society
10. Critically evaluate the quality of the performance given and the quality of the literature performed

**PROCEDURES**: Class will meet Tues & Thurs from 4:35-5:55 p.m. for lecture and rehearsal. Attendance is *required*. The instructor is under no obligation to make up material presented in class unless the student provides a reasonable and, if appropriate, documented excuse. Some assignments may require additional lab and sectional time.

**PREREQUISITE**: Significant instrumental music experience and an audition are required. Auditions take place the first Tuesday of each semester.

**ATTENDANCE:**  
Members earn one hour of academic credit for their participation. During the first week of classes, each student will receive a schedule of events for the entire semester including dress rehearsals, off-campus performance dates (if applicable), and concerts. Grades will be based on attendance at rehearsals and performances, including sectional rehearsals, and compliance with the stated schedule, including concert dress requirements. Students are urged to keep a personal calendar. There are no written exams.

**Unexcused Absences:** None or One A (semester grade)

Two B (semester grade)

Three C (semester grade)

Four Withdrawn from the course

With an F for the semester

**Absence from a dress rehearsal will result in the lowering of the semester grade by one letter.**

**Absence from a concert will result in the lowering of the semester grade by two letters.**

**Tardy to Rehearsal:** Arriving late to rehearsal will not be tolerated. Two unexcused tardies will count the same as one unexcused absence.

**Excused Absences or Tardies:** Any absence from a rehearsal (or tardy) must be cleared in **advance\*** with the conductor.

*(Best)* 1. Contact the conductors in person, in advance. \*

2. Email the conductors in advance\*

3. Telephone the conductors in advance\* and explain your situation.

4. As a last resort, leave emergency messages on the answering machine

at the phone number listed above in advance. \*

**\* It will be determined by the conductor if the requested absence or tardy is to be considered excused.** If illnesses occur frequently, you may be asked for writtendocumentation from a physician. The mere fact that you have informed the conductors in advance about missing a rehearsal **does not** automatically guarantee that you will be excused. Please make your best attempt **not to schedule** routine health appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist), job interviews, academic advising appointments, car repairs, etc. during the rehearsal time.

**AUDITIONS**: An audition is required for membership in the ensemble. Students must demonstrate a high level of competency on their instrument in order to participate.

**INSTRUMENTS:** A rental fee of $25/semester will be charged for school owned instruments. Lockers may be rented for $10/semester. Practice room access may be acquired for $10/semester.

**MUSIC:** Due to the nature of this ensemble, parts will usually be distributed during the first rehearsals. You are expected to come to the next rehearsals as prepared as possible on your parts. Questions concerning parts should be directed to the Band librarian(s). All music remains the property of GT, and you will be held responsible for any lost or damaged parts. If music is not returned, you will receive an incomplete.

**CONCERT ATTIRE & PERSONAL APPEARANCE:** Wearing the required concert attire for any performance is a requirement of the course. Students who elect not to comply will, at the discretion of the conductors, be asked not to perform and/or may expect to have their course grade lowered. For the formal concerts, men must wear a traditional black tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes. For the formal concerts, women must wear a black full-length concert dress or black pants with black blouse outfit with black dress shoes. Short black dresses (knee length or shorter) are **not** acceptable, nor are “prom-type” dresses which may feature bare shoulders and upper arms or excessive ruffles and decorations such as sequins. Women should wear sleeves, and a modest neckline. For men and women, the wearing of dark navy blue outfit as a substitute for black is not acceptable, nor is wearing any accent colors such as red or blue. Wearing tennis shoes or sneakers or strappy sandal-like shoes, even black ones, is not preferred. Outlandishly dyed hair color is also not appropriate.

We intend to maintain a high professional standard in the GT Band program regarding formal concert attire as well as standards of personal grooming, much the same as you would experience in the professional world with a symphony orchestra or professional chamber ensemble.

If you have any questions or doubts about your own concert attire, please seek the opinion of your conductors well ahead of time.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** This ensemble will be most successful when students are actively participating in every moment of rehearsal. Simply stated, do not have your phone out or the ringer on during class. Use of any electronic device (other than an individual tuner) during rehearsal may result in your removal from rehearsal and an unexcused absence.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

1. Modeling
2. Performance
3. Lecture/Discussion
4. Printed Music/Informational Handouts
5. Selected Reference Recordings
6. Assigned readings
7. Cooperative Learning
8. Interaction with composers of new music for winds and percussion

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

1. Rehearsal/Sectional attendance 40%
2. Performances 30%
3. Musical preparation/application of aural analysis 10%
4. Written post concert reflections/critical analysis 10%
5. Integration of historical and social context 10%

100%

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students must do their own work on assignments, projects, and tests unless collaboration is previously specified and approved by the instructor. Students caught cheating will receive zero credit for that assignment/quiz/test and may be subject to further sanctions through the Office of Student Integrity. Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code and avoid any instances of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

1. Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or oral information in the preparation of a paper or for an exam.
2. Substitution of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another individual or individuals.
3. False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the student.

Please refer to the published Georgia Institute of Technology Academic Honor Code for further information: <http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/policies/honor_code.html>

**STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The ADAPTS Office will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. The web site for a student requesting accommodation is:

<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=2>

**STATEMENT REGARDING CHANGES IN COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, it may be necessary to modify the above requirements or their timing as circumstances dictate. For example, the number and frequency of exams may be changed, or the number and sequence of assignments will be altered. In either of these cases, adequate notification will be given in writing and be discussed in class.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** A “Schedule of Events” accompanies this Course Outline and constitutes an essential part of the overall course requirement. You absolutely MUST obtain a calendar and keep track of your obligations and requirements such as dress rehearsals and concerts.

January 7 Auditions

January 9 Sight read music for Concert #1

January 14-16 Guest Conductors

January 21-23 Guest Conductors

January 28-30 Music Rehearsal- Focus on Technique/Ensemble Performance

February 4-6 Music Rehearsal- Focus on Dynamics/Expression- Historical Context

February 11-13 Music Rehearsal- Final Preparations for Concert

February 18 Dress Rehearsal

**February 20 4:35 – 5:55 PM – Ferst Center- Soundcheck**

**February 20 7:30 PM – Ferst Center- Concert**

February 25-27 Sight read music for Concert #2

March 4 Sight read music for Concert #2

March 6 No rehearsal- Women’s ACC Basketball Tournament

March 11-13 Music Rehearsal- Focus on Technique/Ensemble Performance

March 17-22 Spring Break- No Rehearsal

March 25-27 Music Rehearsal- Focus on Technique/Ensemble Performance

April 1-3 Music Rehearsal- Focus on Dynamics/Expression- Historical Context

April 8-10 Music Rehearsal- Final Preparations for Concert

**April 13 1:00 - 2:30PM– Ferst CENTER- Soundcheck**

**April 13 3:00 PM – Ferst Center- Concert**

April 15-27 Return materials- Instruments/music/folders

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – T-SQUARE/Class List-Serv:** Weekly rehearsal schedules, announcements, mp3 files of repertoire we are performing, etc. will be posted on T-Square. We encourage you to keep close track of our T-Square site & Listserv announcements. We will make every effort to communicate the schedule to you well in advance. In return, we expect you to be on time to rehearsal with the necessary music learned and ready to go. Recordings of repertoire are posted as a courtesy, and you should listen to each piece, with your part in front of you, whenever possible.