



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Small Commercial Music Ensemble – Improvisation

MUSP 1148_004

PATRICK MCKEE

This is a 16 week course.

NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid course

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Fall 2023

Course Description:

SMALL COMMERCIAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE – IMPROVISATION

MUSP 1148 01

Participation in a small ensemble concentrating on improvisation of commercial music performance styles. Ensemble sections offered include: electric guitar, contemporary Christian, big band jazz and vocal jazz, among others. Semester Hour 1 (4 lab)

Prerequisites and/or Requisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

MUSP 1148 is designed to 1) develop the skills necessary to work as a professional musician and 2) expose the student to a variety of commercial music styles.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Patrick McKee

MCC E-mail: pmckee@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: TBA

Office Location: BPAC 112

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

No text required. All students will be required to bring blank staff paper and a pencil to each class session. In addition:

- **Vocalists** are responsible for their own microphones and cables (rehearsal PA is provided).
- **Guitarists and bassists** are responsible for their instruments, strings, cables and a guitar tuner (amps are provided).
- **Keyboard players** are responsible for bringing an instrument cable for keyboards that are run through an amp or the PA system (keyboards and amps/PAs are provided).
- **Drummers** are responsible for their own sticks (drum kit and cymbals are provided).

SMALL COMMERCIAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE – IMPROVISATION

MUSP 1148 01

It is the instrumentalist's responsibility to ensure that instruments and cables are in proper working order, and instrumentalists are **STRONGLY** encouraged to have extra cables and strings available at all times. Cables do malfunction and strings do break unexpectedly. If an instrumentalist can't plug in or play their instrument, they won't be able to contribute to the ensemble and their grade will be affected.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Class meetings will include daily rehearsal and performances, occasional office or classroom meetings to discuss the notation project and outside-of-class performances (on and off-campus).

MUSP 1148 is a performance-intensive class. Students MUST practice outside of class, attend class regularly and be prepared to perform in class if they hope to be successful.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

The student will demonstrate proficiency in the following basic skills, knowledge and techniques related to functioning in a performing musical ensemble: (address SLOs 1,2,4,5,7,8 and 9)

- Ability to read chord charts and standard musical notation
- Improvisation ability through knowledge and application of improvisation theory
- Proficiency in performing a variety of styles within Rock and Popular music
- Ability to function effectively in a rhythm section
- Ability to capture an audience through good stage presence
- Ability to effectively communicate in musical terms to fellow musicians during rehearsals and performances
- Ability to teach fellow musicians new material using sound rehearsal techniques
- Ability to organize the set-up of band equipment for rehearsals and performances

All band members may be called upon to sing backup vocals in addition to playing their primary instrument.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Rehearsals will be held throughout the semester. Performances will be scheduled on a semester-by-semester basis, and may be added during the course of the semester. Notation projects will be due prior to the last performance of the semester. A schedule of due dates will be handed out in

SMALL COMMERCIAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE – IMPROVISATION

MUSP 1148 01

class at the beginning of each term, but is subject to change based on additional performances or other events added to the schedule throughout the semester.

Course Grading Information:

Grades will consist of three components (a notation project, a daily grade and a grade for participation in performances), each comprising one-third of your overall grade.

The notation project will consist of bringing in at least one chart for the group to perform. This chart must be notated/written by the student (not a photocopy), must be computer-notated or NEATLY hand written so that it can be easily read by your everyone in the ensemble, and must indicate, at minimum, the chord progression, melodies and form (including intros and endings) for the performance of the tune. This chart may be an original composition, an original arrangement of an existing composition, or an exact transcription of a recorded performance.

****NOTE** – On-time completion of this project is **REQUIRED** in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Daily grades will be based on:

- 1) The ability to demonstrate proficiency in the Course Objectives.
- 2) Punctuality – Students must be ready to perform at the beginning of rehearsal. Three tardies will be equivalent to one absence.
- 3) Preparation – Students must be able to play/sing their parts for songs assigned in previous classes. It is the student's responsibility to learn the material outside of class and bring to class any required sheet music (charts), lyrics, and recordings, *every day*.
- 4) Professional Attitude – Students should display a positive attitude, perform what they are asked to perform to the *best* of their ability, even if performing a style that they are unfamiliar with or a song they don't care for.
- 5) Courtesy - Any disrespectful behavior toward other members of the ensemble or the instructor will result in the student being dropped from the class with a grade of F.
- 6) Keeping all personal and school-owned equipment in good order.

Performance participation includes the loading, unloading, set-up and tear-down of equipment in addition to the performance itself. Students who do not participate in these activities (at both the beginning and at the end of a performance) **WILL RECEIVE A ZERO** for their performance participation grade and likely will not pass the course. Performances are scheduled each semester and may be added during the course of the semester. Once performance dates have

been arranged, attendance and participation will be **REQUIRED** in order to receive full credit for this portion of your grade.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Please respect the fact that due to the nature of an ensemble, each absence affects not only yourself, but the entire ensemble, as well. For this reason, each unexcused absence (or the equivalent three tardies) from a scheduled class session will result in lowering your overall class grade by 10% (one full letter grade). Four unexcused absences will result in the student being withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. If reached after the official drop date for the semester, the student will receive a grade of F.

As noted above, on-time completion of the notation project is **REQUIRED** in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity.

- Phones, Bluetooths, Blackberries, PDAs, headphones/earbuds, etc. should be silent and put away. Electronic communication of any kind (sending or receiving e-mail, text messages, etc.) during class time will result in the student being asked to leave the class

until the next meeting. Any electronic communication sent or received during a test or quiz will result in an automatic F.

- Professional, courteous and respectful behavior is expected of all students. Threatening, hostile or profane language or behavior will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the course.
- No food or drink (except water in a container with a sealable top) in class.
- Leaving class early or an excessively late arrival (missing more than 25% of class time) will result in an official absence for the day.

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

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Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

Updated 07/18/2023



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu 2542998122 Room
319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the acting Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a

confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg. Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to

<https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at

https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are

expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.