



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Small Commercial Music Ensemble – Waco Jazz Orchestra

MUSP 1148 50

Noah Alvarado

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

Course Description:

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

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Audition and approval by director

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

None

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Noah Alvarado

MCC E-mail: nalvarado@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: none

Office Location: none

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By Appt.

Other Instruction Information: noah.alvarado@gmail.com

Required Text & Material:

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).

MUSP 1148 50

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.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Class meetings will include daily rehearsal and performances, occasional office or classroom 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:

- 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.
- 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

Course Outline:

Rehearse songs and parts each week for final performance

Course Grading Information:

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.
- 3) Preparation – 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) 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. 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.

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 education opportunity.

* **[Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

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)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

violence.

** You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

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/>

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 a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and 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.

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 contacted/notified through 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.

* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

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.

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 her/his 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.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward the 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 become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

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. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

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

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)
(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

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 Title IX Coordinator at

titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) 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.

* *You will need to access each link separately through your web browser (for example Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari) to print each link's information.*