University of Massachusetts Amherst
Concert Band
Music 569, course #77296
1 Unit
Mondays, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, George N. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building

Instructor
Dr. Timothy Todd Anderson.
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Office Hours: 2 pm – 3 pm, Monday - Thursday

Purpose of Class
Concert Band is a non-auditioned ensemble open to any student in the Five Colleges and the community. The only auditions are for chair-seating purposes. There is no pre-requisite to being in the ensemble. The purpose of Concert Band is to provide a quality musical experience for all students, through the wind band medium. A wide variety of literature is chosen, reflecting different genres, with a balance between art music and popular music. This music is rehearsed throughout the semester, in order to achieve acceptable levels of musicianship. The music is then performed in a public concert.

Grading of the Class
All grading in Concert Band is done on attendance. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

- 0 unexcused absences = A
- 1 unexcused absence = B
- 2 unexcused absences = C
- 3 unexcused absences = D
- 4 or more unexcused absences = F

Furthermore, an unexcused absence from a performance equals an F for the semester.

Examples of excused absences:

- illness
- family emergency
- religious observances
- family events such as a wedding or funeral
- mandatory academic events for another class, such as a field trip.
In order for an absence to be excused, a rehearsal excuse request must be submitted to Dr. Anderson **1 week** before the requested absence. There may be a request for proper documentation. Proper documentation is defined as a note from your professor, a doctor, or the responsible family member.

The following are examples of absences that are typically unexcused:

- unable to find a parking spot
- study/review session for another class;
- meeting/advising session with a professor
- group project meeting;
- medical appointments that could have been scheduled at another time; work.

In the event of an unplanned absence, such as an illness or a family emergency, it may not be possible to give notice before rehearsal. In such an event, the student is required to provide documentation of their absence upon return to class.

Because this is an evening class, there is the possibility you will have an examination for another class scheduled against band rehearsal. University policy is that if a class meets only once a week and is scheduled Monday or Tuesday evening, it has priority over the exam. The University exam policy is included in this syllabus. Please be proactive and work with the instructor of the class giving the exam to obtain an alternative time.

Tardiness also counts against attendance. Roll is taken at **7:30 pm** each rehearsal. Entering rehearsal after attendance has been taken counts as a tardy. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. Every two tardies after that equals an additional unexcused absence.

In order to be counted present for a rehearsal, students will need to have their instrument in working condition and with all needed accessories (reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.); have their music, and a pencil. Failure to have these items will lead to a student being counted tardy.

If you have a class conflict that requires you to miss any part of a rehearsal, you will need to discuss this with Dr. Anderson.

**Reporting an absence**

If you are tardy or late to a rehearsal, please e-mail both Dr. Anderson ([tanderson@music.umass.edu](mailto:tanderson@music.umass.edu)) and Sabrina Azinheira, the personnel manager. Her e-mail is [ummbpersonnelmanager@gmail.com](mailto:ummbpersonnelmanager@gmail.com).
Required dates outside of class time
There are two required dates for attendance outside of class time:

- **Wednesday, Dec. 5th:** special rehearsal with guest conductor
  - We will be having a special guest conductor, Dr. David Waybright, Director of Bands at the University of Florida. Because he arrives on Tuesday, we are moving our rehearsal that week to Wednesday, so that we will be able to rehearse with him.

- **Friday, Dec. 7th:** Dress rehearsal for our concert, 5 pm
  - Our concert is that same evening, at 7:30 pm.

Other dates of interest
Though not required, it is strongly encouraged you attend the performances of the Wind Ensemble and the Symphony Band. These are the other wind bands at UMass, and consist of many of your peers. A large audience is always appreciated.

The dates for the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band concerts are:

- **Friday, October 5th:** Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band, 7:30 pm
- **Friday, October 19th:** Multibands Pops Concert, 7:30 pm.
- **Monday, October 23rd:** Symphony Band, 7:30 pm.
- **Thursday, November 29th:** Symphony Band and Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 pm

Dates of no rehearsal
- **Monday, October 8th:** Columbus Day
- **Monday, November 12th:** Veterans Day observed
- **Monday, November 19th:** Thanksgiving Break
- **Monday, December 3rd:** Meeting on Wednesday the 5th instead

Monday class schedules on alternate days
- Tuesday, October 9th
- Wednesday, November 14th
- We will be meeting at our regular time on these dates.

Concert Attire
Concert attire is “dressy.” This can be interpreted as:

- Collared shirts
- Blouses
- Sweaters
- Sports jackets/blazers
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Slacks
You do NOT need to wear concert black. Life is full of colors. A few maxims about concert attire, though:

- Jeans are NOT allowed
- Footwear must be formal, not tennis/basketball shoes or sandals.
- In general, go with a conservative/classy look, versus splashy. Let your music make the statement.

*The director reserves the right to withhold from performance anyone who does not meet the above dress expectations.*

**Music**

Each student will be issued a folder with music for the semester. Students will also receive a storage slot in the filing cabinets in The Big Room. The music is photo copied but the folders remain property of the band. At the end of each rehearsal, folders should be returned to the cabinet. At the end of the semester, all music and folders will be collected.

If you are in need of music, please contact the band librarian, Olivia Anderson: library.ummb@gmail.com

**Lockers**

There are a limited number of lockers available in the George N. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building. These are intended for instrument storage and are provided free of charge. Students desiring a locker should contact Sabrina Azinheira, the Personnel Manager for the Marching Band. Her e-mail is ummbpersonnelmanager@gmail.com.

Please be aware: the Minuteman Marching Band is not responsible for personal items stored in student lockers.

**Instruments**

Between the inventory of the Minuteman Band and the Department of Music and Dance, there are a small number of winds instruments available for those who do not own their own. If you are in need of an instrument, please check with equipment manager James Campbell (ummb.equipment@gmail.com). You are responsible for your own accessories, such as reeds and valve oil.

Percussionists are expected to provide their own sticks/mallets. They will perform on the Minuteman Marching Band front ensemble instruments. These high quality instruments are made available due to the work of Prof. Thomas P. Hannum. It is because of his national reputation that we have access to such instruments.

**Building access/rules**

The George N. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building was built with the purpose of providing a home to band members. As a member of the Concert Band, you have access to this building; please feel free to use the open areas for
studying/socializing. You may use the Big Room and the locker rooms for your own practice, if you like. The Building is unlocked from 8 am – 7 pm on weekdays, and to 10 pm on Mondays, due to our rehearsal. Because you are in this band, you will be given Ucard access to the building, which allows you in at all hours.

Food/drink is only allowed in certain areas of the Building. No food/drink outside of water is allowed in the rehearsal areas. Only water in a covered container is allowed in The Big Room.

**Rehearsal expectations**
The rehearsal is not where you come to learn your parts. That is done outside of the rehearsal, through individual practice. The rehearsal is where the ensemble sound is developed and refined. In order for rehearsals to be effective, students should come with their music prepared and with their attention focused. We only 2 hours of rehearsal a week, so every minute is valuable. The more prepared you are for each rehearsal, the farther we can go as an ensemble.

*Each section is expected to hold at least ONE sectional during the semester.* This needs to be outside of Monday, 7:30 – 9:30. Organizing sectionals are the responsibility of the principal player for each section. Section leaders can work with Dr. Anderson to schedule their sectional in the Parks Band Building.

Texting is not allowed during rehearsals. Students in violation of this will be asked to leave the rehearsal and will be marked absent. There should be no talking when the conductor is rehearsing the music. Downtime will always be given between each piece. Students who cannot rehearse in such a fashion will be asked to leave. Questions will often be asked of the ensemble; please feel free to contribute your answers.

**Chair auditions**
Membership in the Concert Band is open to any student in the Five Colleges and the community. There is no audition to join the group; everyone is accepted. There are auditions for chair placement. These determine who the section leaders are, and in the case of sections with multiple parts (clarinets, French horns, trumpets, etc), determine part assignment. The audition music consists of scales and excerpts from the music we will be playing. Auditions will be held during the first rehearsal. Audition music can be found at [http://www.umass.edu/music/ensembles_wind.php#concertband](http://www.umass.edu/music/ensembles_wind.php#concertband)

*Anyone who does not audition will be assigned last chair in their respective section.*

**Guest conductors**
There will be two guest conductors this semester. We will have Jose Blesa Lull and James Minnix. Both are first year students in the Master in Wind Conducting program. Each brings their own experiences and expertise, and we will gain much from interacting with them. Conducting the Concert Band is a valuable part of their education, and will help prepare them for their careers. It is expected that all guest
conductors receive the same level of respect as Dr. Anderson. In the past, guest conductors have achieved great musical results with the Concert Band.

**Repertoire for Fall, 2018**

The concert repertoire for the semester is:

- **Slava!** - Leonard Bernstein, arranged Clare Grundman
  - As part of the Leonard Bernstein Centennial Celebration
- **L’Ingelisa March** – Davide Delle Cese. Dr. David Waybright, Director of Bands at the University of Florida, conductor
- **Sheltering Sky** – John Mackey. James Minnix, graduate conductor
- **Mystery on Mena Mountain** – Julie Giroux. Jose Blesa Lull, graduate conductor
- **Four Brothers** – Jimmy Giuffre, arranged by Tim Anderson
  - Featuring members of the UMass Marimba Band/Ensemble