PROPOSAL FOR NEW COURSE OFFERING
Eastman School of Music

Proposed Title of Course: ENS 400J: Large Jazz Ensemble (ENS 401J, 0-credit option)

Proposed Credit Hours: 1 credit Contact Hours Per Week: 4 hours

Proposed Class Schedule: same as existing course

Enrollment Limit: same as existing course

To Be Offered: (Circle all that apply.) Fall Spring Summer

Proposed Subject-area: (See Handbook – e.g. Pedagogy, Conducting, Theory, Jazz Studies) Jazz Studies

Department Providing Staffing: JCM department

Intended Primarily For: (Circle One.) Undergraduates Master’s Doctoral

If a required course, explain for which degree and major: required for MM JCM students

Pre-requisites (if any):__________________________

Repeatable for credit? (Courses are repeatable for credit when content changes.) (Circle One.) Yes No

Method of Instruction (Explain briefly.) see attached syllabus

Out-of-Class Work Expected: (readings, practice, rehearsal, etc. Attach reading list, if appropriate.) see attached syllabus

Evaluation Procedures: (papers, tests, performances, juries, etc.) see attached syllabus

Grading Method: (Circle One) A-B-C-D-E CR / NC

(Please see reverse side.)
Course Description for Handbook:  *(50 words or less)*

*same as existing course*

Course Outline:

*same as existing course*

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Sep-99
Course Syllabus

JCM 200, 400, 501: Jazz Ensemble (Section 1, Eastman Jazz Ensemble)

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:35-14:25, Room 120 (Ray Wright Room)

The instrumentation of this ensemble is that of the standard big band: 5 saxophones (AATTB, with woodwind doubles as needed), 4 Trumpets, 4 Trombones, Piano, Guitar, Bass and Drums. Additional instruments are used as needed, including French horns, tuba and additional percussion instruments.

The repertoire is a mixture of classic big band compositions and arrangements from the 1920s to the 1980s, jazz works from recent decades and works by student writers, with an emphasis on works by jazz writing majors. The ensemble shares one concert in each semester with Jazz Ensemble, Section 2 (Eastman New Jazz Ensemble), performs one full concert in each semester, and is joined by orchestral winds, percussion, harp and strings from the large classical ensembles in an annual spring semester performance by the Eastman Studio Orchestra.

Major professional jazz performers and composers share the stage with the ensemble at least once each year, and the ensemble occasionally performs at jazz education conferences, public schools and universities.

The ensemble performs its half of the spring concert (shared with the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble) without any written music. The director prepares material before each rehearsal, with nothing written down, and teaches this material to the ensemble orally and by singing. It normally requires 6 weeks to prepare thirty-five minutes of music (5 or 6 pieces). There is usually a theme involved (blues from different eras, works by a particularly important jazz writer, pieces from a particularly influential jazz record album or CD, etc.). Working in this way for one period each year hones the skills that are particular to jazz in a manner that deepens the experience of reading music, and the most influential early bands, such as those of Count Basie and Duke Ellington, sometimes learned repertoire in a similar manner.

The standard expected of this ensemble is that of a professional jazz orchestra, both in terms of traditional ensemble skills and those involving improvisation. It is assumed that students who are regular members of this ensemble will, upon completing their academic education, be ready to step into the professional jazz world and achieve or surpass the level of artistry demanded in that world.