

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

MUSIC 253 – CONCERT BAND

3 hours laboratory, 1 unit

Catalog Description

Study of representative concert band compositions in a wide variety of styles at regular rehearsals and public performances.

Prerequisite

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in MUS 252 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Aural Skills
 - a. Ability to identify musical elements in a recorded or live performance, including formal construction for strophic form, chromatic melodies and diatonic harmonic relationships with elements of chromaticism in tonal works.
 - b. Ability to identify performance elements in a recorded or live performance, including intervallic intonation deficiencies at the M3/m3/M2/m2, slight rhythmic alignment errors and minor phases in pulse.
- 2) Performance Skills
 - a. Ability to Perform repertoire excerpts of an advanced difficulty with no technical errors and a developing interpretative fluency.
 - b. Ability to perform repertoire with appropriate understanding of 20th century styles, including articulation, tempo and ornaments.
 - c. Ability to perform with appropriate ensemble skills of balance and blend with no lapses.

Course Content

- 1) Rehearsing band literature with other instrumentalists under the direction of the instructor
- 2) Interpretation of proper phrasing and articulation of music studied
- 3) Technical skills and interpretation of musical directions from the conductor
- 4) Creation of expression marks and interpretation of music symbols
- 5) Historical significance and relevant facts about the composition and/or composer

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Perform assigned parts from selected literature for concert band at a beginning level of technical execution
- 2) Distinguish musical differences among various styles
- 3) Interpret music at a beginning level within stylistic parameters
- 4) Assist in designing and implementing musical performances
- 5) Evaluate ensemble performances from the perspective of a beginning level participant

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for

evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Performance assignments that measure the student's ability to execute instrumental parts with technical accuracy and appropriate style mannerisms.
- 2) Written musical notation assignments that measure the student's ability to accurately express musical ideas and style features in written form.
- 3) Weekly rehearsal performance quizzes that measure the student's ability to identify differences in musical styles and critically assess the qualitative aspects of performances.
- 4) Final concert performance exam that measure the student's ability to execute instrumental parts with reliable technique and musical expression.

Special Materials Required of Student

Band instrument and concert attire

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Classroom with chairs with no arms
- 2) Music stands
- 3) Whiteboard with music staves
- 4) Library of concert band ensemble music
- 5) Audio-video sound system

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and demonstration
- 2) Class discussion
- 3) Weekly performance assignments
- 4) Analysis of compositions
- 5) Critique of student performances

Out-of-Class Assignments

Regular practice on a musical instrument

Texts and Reference

- 1) Required (representative repertoire):
 - a. The Planets - Gustav Holst
 - b. Theme to Star Wars - John Williams
 - c. Stars and Stripes Forever - John Phillip Sousa
- 2) Supplemental: None

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Aural Skills
 - a. Ability to identify musical elements in a recorded or live performance, including formal construction for sonata-allegro form, atonal melodies and chromatic harmonic relationships with chordal extensions in tonal works.
 - b. Ability to identify performance elements in a recorded or live performance, including intervallic intonation deficiencies at all diatonic intervals and rhythmic misalignment at any point in a performance.
- 2) Performance Skills
 - a. Ability to Perform repertoire excerpts of an advanced difficulty with no technical errors and a compelling interpretative fluency.
 - b. Ability to perform repertoire with appropriate understanding of all major music styles, including articulation, tempo and ornaments.

- c. Ability to perform with appropriate ensemble skills of balance and blend with no lapses and assist other players in achieving blend and balance.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Evaluate live and recorded performances for technical accuracy and stylistic integrity.
- 2) Perform musical works as part of an ensemble with beginning level technical proficiency and appropriate stylistic interpretation.