

Course name	Big Band	ECTS CREDITS	9
Course coordinator	dr hab. Patryk Piłsiewicz	Credit hours total	180
Faculty of	Instrumental Studies, Historically Informed Performance, Jazz and Pop Music	Course type	lecture
Institute of	Jazz and Pop Music	Mode of study	full-time programme
Major	Jazz and Pop Music	Profile of study	general academic
Specialisation	Composition and Arrangement	Language of instruction	Polish/English
Cycle	Second-Cycle Studies	Course group	core / elective

Course placement in the study plan			
Semester 1	60, P/F, 3	Semester 2	60, G, 3
Semester 3	60, P/F, 3		

Teacher	dr hab. Patryk Piłsiewicz; mgr Jakub Kraszewski
Learning Aims and Objectives	<p>The course aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Students to work in a large orchestral ensemble in the context of composition, orchestration, and arrangement • Consolidate and expand knowledge of big-band repertoire and the performance traditions of different periods • Refine compositional, instrumental and vocal skills required of a big-band musician • Further develop the ability to phrase collectively, maintain consistent intonation, and interpret musical material within the big-band tradition, taking into account appropriate notation methods • Improve sight-reading skills and ensure clarity in musical text notation • Enhance methods of working under the conductor's direction, with particular emphasis on providing clear and communicative interpretative cues • Develop skills in composition and arrangement for individual big-band sections (woodwind, brass, and rhythm) to achieve cohesive performance of a big-band score • Acquire the ability to distinguish stylistic features and apply practical interpretative approaches to musical notation, including contemporary compositional techniques • Prepare to present the prepared material publicly (through concerts, recordings, streaming, etc.) • Prepare for studio and recording work, focusing on collaboration with media and adapting to varied acoustic conditions; provide methods for working with sound and video engineers, stage managers, and producers
Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health requirements necessary to continue instrumental studies without contraindications • Solid understanding of music theory, including harmony and counterpoint • General understanding of music theory • Successful result in the entry audition exam

COURSE CONTENT

Semester 1

The course covers:

1. Basic methods of interpreting big-band notation (structure of orchestral parts, functional and chordal notation, abbreviations and simplifications, articulation and dynamic markings).
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Working on unified breathing, phrasing, and articulation–dynamic execution
4. Conducting rehearsals as a conductor
5. Discussion and implementation of various approaches to working within the rhythm section

Semester 2

1. Refining big-band musicianship through the performance of a programme of high complexity and stylistic diversity
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Conducting sectional and tutti rehearsals as a conductor
4. Work on unified intonation – consolidation and development using atonal material and collective improvisation.
5. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

Semester 3

1. Refining big-band musicianship through the performance of a programme of high complexity and stylistic diversity
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Refining collective timing, phrasing, and articulation—dynamic nuances.
4. Work on unified intonation – consolidation and development using atonal material and collective improvisation.
5. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

	Learning outcome reference code	LEARNING OUTCOMES	Descriptors	
			PQF STAGE 2	PQF STAGE 1
		The Student will know and understand:		
Knowledge	JiME2_W02	representative repertoire of their chosen field of study	P7S_WG	P7U_W
	JiME2_W03	elements of music works, as well as formal and structural patterns of jazz music works		
		current trends in jazz and popular/stage music		
		The student is able to:		
Skills	JiME2_U07	reach, analyse and interpret desired information (books, recordings, notation sheets, the Internet)	P7S_UK	P7U_U
	JiME2_U08	accompany soloists in various ensembles		
	JiME2_U10	shape and create music as well as to improvise in a way that deviates from the written notation in a certain style,		
	JiME2_U11	utilise technical proficiency to deliver a professional musical performance and identify technical challenges specific to each instrument (such as tonality, precision etc.)	P7S_UO	
	JiME2_U16	formulate oral and written opinions as regards interpretation, creation and reproduction of music as well as formulate opinions on issues broadly related to the humanities in general		
	Competence	JiME2_K01	gather, analyse and purposefully interpret any required information related to their specialisation	P7SK_K
JiME2_K03		organise own work as well as to lead joint tasks or projects	P7SK_O	
JiME2_K04		perform self-evaluation and form constructive criticism as regards music and artistic activities or activities related to the area of broadly understood cultural activities		

TEACHING METHODS

Lecture
 Reading comprehension and discussion
 Addressing artistic challenges
 Individual work
 Group work
 Problem-solving sessions
 Any other assessment methods applied by the course instructor

LEARNING OUTCOME VERIFICATION METHODS

Final requirements – successfully completed year, grading criteria

Learning outcome reference code

performance audition	JiME1_U07 JiME1_U08 JiME1_U10 JiME1_U11 JiME1_U16 JiME1_K03 JiME1_W02
Any other assessment methods applied by the course instructor	

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA	
Course Completion Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend and actively participate in classes Participate actively in rehearsals and preparations for concerts and artistic projects Master the repertoire assigned for the respective semester as specified in the course programme
Exam Requirements	Students must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a course credit (pass). Deliver a prepared project

STUDENT WORKLOAD	Credit hours total	ECTS CREDITS
Contact hours with the instructor	180	9
Hours of independent student work	40	

Recommended reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangements by Wojciech Olszewski Compositions by Jerzy Milian and Krzysztof Komeda Compositions and arrangements by big bands of Duke Ellingtona, Counta Basie, Charles Mingus, Gil Evans, Gerry Mulligan, Marai Schneider, Joe Zawinul and other Compositions and arrangements by the staff and students of The Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań
On-line resources (optional)