

# GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course No. and Yr.: MUS 268 | MUS 450M—Fall 2017 (updated 08/25/2017)

## COURSE NAME and DESCRIPTION

Illinois Wind Symphony (WS) Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor. Through rehearsal and performance of a variety of carefully selected wind band and chamber wind literature, students will increase their knowledge and experience base with focus on professional outcomes and standards to service career objectives of future professional performers and educators. The Wind Symphony is open to all University of Illinois students on an auditioned basis. Ensemble placement and repertoire/part assignments are determined by audition and faculty recommendations, and are intended to provide the most appropriate educational experience for each individual student's development. This course may be repeated for credit.

## FACULTY INFORMATION

Dr. Stephen G. Peterson, conductor  
Harding Band Building Office: Room 140  
Music Building Office: Room 4056  
217-333-3025  
[sptrsn@illinois.edu](mailto:sptrsn@illinois.edu)

## SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION

**General Class Schedule:** Monday 1:00 pm–3:50 pm and Wednesday 1:00 pm–3:50 pm. \*Rehearsals are in Harding Band Building, Room 141, unless otherwise noted on the weekly rehearsal schedule. These sectionals will be scheduled during the first week of classes and may occur at any time weekly that is convenient for all members of the section. Consult the on-line weekly rehearsal schedule regularly for information.

**Attendance Requirements:** Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances listed in the syllabus or posted as an addendum. There are no absences allowed. However, sickness and extenuating circumstances may occur. In these situations, please contact the conductor immediately. If you have a recital on the same date, you are expected to be in rehearsal, but will be allowed to rest during rehearsal rather than play. The school policy is school ensembles first, external jobs second.

**Music:** Music is supplied by University of Illinois Department of Bands. Music and folders are on loan to students for each concert rotation. They must be returned in full at the close of each concert rotation. Students are responsible for all loaned materials, and must replace any missing items. The fee for a missing folder is \$25. If there is an original rental part checked out, there may be an additional fee based on the agreement with the rental agency.

**Course Goals:** To address, rehearse, and perform wind ensemble/band music from various periods and to grow as performers and educators through participation in various-sized ensembles. It is intended that this course be a fusion arena for all other music curricula.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who have successfully completed this course should:

- Perform at a high level of proficiency as a soloist, section member, and ensemble member;
- Understand the concepts of good intonation, balance between melodic and accompaniment lines, balance between players, instrumental blend and tone color;
- Understand the concepts of phrasing, dynamics, articulation, rhythmic precision and ensemble clarity as it relates to quality performance;
- Appreciate quality wind band repertoire;
- Work creatively and collaboratively with others;
- Better understand the process of large ensemble sequential rehearsing and pacing in relation to short and long term performance goals

**Student Expectations:**

- Be early, Be prepared musically, be warmed up and tuned.
- Come to rehearsal open-minded and ready to learn in ways that you might not understand.
- Use your time in rehearsal to become a better musician: listen actively, understand your role and how your part fits with others in your section, and the ensemble.
- Know where the melody and focal point of the music is at all times and protect it by playing with appropriate balance.
- Stay quiet and focused. Respect the rehearsal process and those in the rehearsal.

**Method and Frequency of Evaluations:** Attendance supplies the basis grade to which Individual Performance and Professionalism grades are added. Students are evaluated throughout the semester in all three areas.

**Grading Method:** Each student should read the schedule of events for the entire semester including dress rehearsals, recordings, and concerts. The website postings will be considered accurate—Dates And Times Are Subject To Change—check often. Grades will be based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance (provides “basis grade”—highest attainable grade)
2. Individual performance preparation for daily rehearsal and concert performance (80% of grade)
3. Living up to expected ensemble standards (Professionalism) (20% of grade)
  - Rehearsal habits (i.e. no cell phones, hats, food, drink in rehearsal, etc.)
  - Punctuality (i.e. rehearsals, call times, travel departures, etc.)
  - Individual, Section, and Group responsibility
  - Concert dress requirements, etc.

\*\*\*Note that concerts, dress rehearsals, and recording sessions cannot be made up, and missing one may result in failure of the entire course. These are capstone events and are weighted as such within the construct above. One should expect their grade to be lowered one letter for each unexcused absence from rehearsal.

**A NOTE ABOUT PREPARATION:** The quality of your experience in the Wind Symphony, (or any other group, for that matter) is directly related to the amount of energy and preparation you devote to the music. Our rehearsals will be efficient, exciting, energetic, enjoyable, and challenging, ONLY if EACH of you is fully prepared technically, musically, and emotionally to give your very best. The music we will explore together deserves nothing less. Rehearsals are not to be treated as practice sessions. Each of us MUST learn our music outside of the rehearsal block. This is the key to great music-making and challenging rehearsals. Don't ever allow yourself to be the one who holds us back. Like so many things in life, you will gain from this experience only as much as you are willing to invest in it.

**SECTIONALS:** While the rehearsal schedule calls for three-hour rehearsals, we will rehearse two-and-a-half hours per rehearsal with a required weekly sectional of one hour. These sectionals are designed to be run by the students, who know best what the needs of the section are. Principal players will be in charge. Sectionals may occur at any time convenient for the entire section, BUT ALL PLAYERS MUST BE PRESENT. Please note that this is part of our six-hour class block and is not voluntary.

**CONCERT DRESS:** Formal black. Tuxedo (all black), white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and shoes. Or long, black, and covered outfit—appropriate evening dress (long dress, long skirt or pants with long-sleeved black top or jacket, and black hose with closed-toe black shoes). In other words, look professional. Professionals in large ensembles wear "flat black" in order to not detract from their art.

**QUESTIONS:** I am pleased to assist with your questions about ensemble and / or repertoire. Please do not hesitate to ask. Please use available professional staff and TAs for basic operations questions.

- Music and Instruments: All Wind Band Conducting TAs
- General Information and Room Booking: Main Office

**PRINCIPALS:** If you are assigned as the "principal" of a section, please communicate with the conductor as you see the need to ask questions, voice concerns, or share suggestions. Information benefits everyone. Principals will be asked to run "in-class" sectionals from time to time, and possibly one "out of class" sectional per concert rotation. Principals may also be consulted regarding part assignments within their section.

**NOTE:** Never schedule to play a recital or job on the same date as an IWS performance. Call times, dress rehearsals, and the like vary depending on the complexities of the performance. IWS performances are major school performances. Booking a recital on the same day is simply not smart for you and a disservice to everyone else in the ensemble.

**WEBSITE:** Check the UI Bands Website at [bands.illinois.edu](http://bands.illinois.edu) for lots of information including concert repertoire, reference recordings, weekly rehearsal schedule, and other useful items. Note your weekly rehearsal schedule website tab and bookmark it for easy access. It will be posted on Friday of each week with specific rehearsal times for every work so that you can prepare for rehearsals, and use your time intelligently when you may not be assigned to a particular work. This mechanism is intended to offer you the ability to plan professionally, and demonstrates a true respect for your time. Although timing often runs to the minute, please be flexible to start up to ten min. early or ten min. late on a particular work within the confines of the class time. The flow and progress of a specific rehearsal

moment will not be disturbed by the micro-schedule. The micro-schedule within rehearsal is a basic design to help you plan and keep us in a proper schedule flow.