

MUT 2641 Jazz Improvisation

(offered Fall and Spring)

Fall 2017

Instructor: Scott Wilson

Course Meeting Time and Location: TBA.

Credit Hours: 2 credits

Instructor: Erik Alvar: eaivar@ufl.edu

Jazz Office Location: School of Music: Room 354

Office Hours: Jazz Teaching Assistant will post their office hours. You can request a meeting with the Jazz Director Scott Wilson by contacting swilson@arts.ufl.edu

Contact: Students submit “all” questions (including emergency questions) to their instructor through Canvas: In the “To” field select “Teaching Assistants” and then select “All Teaching Assistants.” It is required to send all questions regarding the class through Canvas so we can track emails for the course, be able to see which instructor has responded to students and be able to view those responses.

NOTE: Please read all announcements before contacting us! Most of the questions we receive are already answered in the announcements and syllabus. Please note that knowing the announcements is your attendance requirement for this 3 credit course (read “attendance requirement” below). If you have not received a response from our Teaching Assistants within 48 hours at that point please contact Scott Wilson directly and he will resolve your issue: swilson@arts.ufl.edu. / **Office phone:** 435-851-6363

Course Description

This course is designed to solidify jazz fundamentals in performance. Students will be required to perform 5 jazz standards from memory and arpeggiate the chords to the 9th. Students will have scale exams on major, dorian and dominant scales and their arpeggios (6 keys for Improvisation 1). Students will be tested on jazz improvisation and be graded on their ability to hit all chord changes, play accurate style and demonstrate jazz vocabulary. Students will also perform a jazz vocabulary lick in all 12 keys.

Prerequisites: Jazz Fundamentals 1 online with a grade of B or better.

Required Text:

Students will purchase the following Play-A-Long albums. Jamey Aebersold Website (www.jazzbooks.com).

Jamey Aebersold Play Along Albums: (the cost is roughly \$15 to \$20 per album)

1. **Volume 44 - Autumn Leaves**
2. **Volume 38 – Blue Note**
3. **Volume 21 – Getting It Together**

Link to Play-A-Long Albums listed above.

http://www.jazzbooks.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=JAJAZZ&Category_Code=AEBPLA&offset=0

Note: These books are not available in the book store because the list of required Jamey Aebersold albums changes from time to time. There are over one hundred Jamey Aebersold play along albums that we have the option to select from each semester, including newly published play alongs.

MISSION STATEMENT

Your goals are to understand that a routine can solve any and all issues in your playing. You can not nurture your skills to their fullest if you are constantly moving backwards rather than routinely hitting a task and

moving forward. A routine is everything and a routine exponentially increases your learning curve in 16 weeks. Those individuals who have a solid routine are Olympic winners, Nobel Prize Winners, phenomenal musicians with industry skills in every corner, and these people see any goal as a set of weekly results. You only need to get better %1 a week to become a professional musician. The routine of having 16 steady weeks of focusing intently on commercial musicianship skills will profoundly affect your life. Those seeds grow to become pillars of strength in your musical foundation and musical prowess as a player, producer, director or composer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is required to check online announcements 2 times a week on Canvas.

STAY INFORMED!

Being informed is an intentional act. We expect everyone to take the initiative to stay informed at all times and our success depends on it!

You will receive all Jazz Updates and information through the following methods:

- Twitter updates (you must sign up for the Gator Jazz Band Twitter account or you may not enroll in jazz improvisation).
- Canvas emails and announcements.
- Announcements in class.
- Announcements at the conclusion of rehearsals.

* If you have a class conflict that necessitates leaving class early, it is your responsibility to seek out any information you may have missed from senior members of the class.

Please note that there is no excuse for being uninformed. Thanks in advance for doing your part to keep up to date and contribute to the success of our students!

ATTENDANCE

Prompt and regular attendance is required at all classes and performances. Any class conflicts must be cleared with the director a minimum of one week in advance unless it is an emergency. The determination of unexcused absence will be made at the discretion of the director..

Attendance Policies

All students must have the learning experience of playing with a full jazz combo. With that in mind, all class rehearsals are required. Any unexcused absences will lower the final grade automatically 1/2 a letter grade, i.e. ...1 unexcused = A to A-, 2 unexcused = A- to B, etc. All excused absences will require the proper written documentation that the student has been excused from school during the time in question. Without this approval we cannot excuse the absence.

GRADING

THERE ARE 1000 points possible.

1. **Memorization of 5 jazz standards.** (500 points) Each standard is worth 100 points and breaks down as shown below.
 - a. Performs melody from memory (40 points)
 - b. Performs arpeggios from memory (40 points)
 - c. Score on improvising 2 choruses (20 points)
 - d. Total 100 points for A, B and C.

 2. **Midterm Scale Test** (180 points) (Use Getting It Together Album) Track 1 Major (4 bars each)
 1. 6 Major Scales – play major scale to 9th and arp. to 9th (Track 1 Major) (4 bars each).
 2. 6 Dorian Scales – play minor scale and arpeggiate to 9th (Track 2 Minor Dorian 18) (4 bars each).
 3. 6 Dominant Scales – play bebop scale and arpeggiate to 9th (Track 16 Dominant) (4 bars)
 3. **Recording of you** performing the melody and two choruses of solos over a play along recording such as Jamey Aebersold play alongs (minimum 4 songs). This CD will be crafted as a personal demo and must be complete with photo and cover with song titles listed. (100 points)
 4. Student must play 1, 2, b3, 4, 5, b3, 2, 1 in all 12 keys. (120 points). This is a critical pattern that helps students learn the notes for minor scales and altered scales (i.e. b2minor over 17 for Dom7alt.)
 5. **Final Exam** (100 points) Students will pick 2 tunes out of a hat that have been studied during the semester. The student will play melody by memory and 2 choruses of solo.
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CALCULATE YOUR GRADE

Use the 1000 point grading scale below to calculate your grade.

1000 – 920 **A**

919 – 900 **A -**

899 - 850 **B+**

849 - 820 **B**

819- 800 **B-**

799 - 750 **C +**

749 - 720 **C**

719- 700 **C-**

699 - 650 **D+**

649 - 620 **D**

619- 600 **D-**

599 and below **E**

Students with disabilities

Individuals with disabilities are asked to register with the Office for Students with Disabilities and submit to the instructor the memorandum from that office concerning necessary accommodations. At the University of Florida for example, The ADA office is located in Room 232 Stadium (phone: 392-7056). All course materials are available in alternative format upon request.

Academic Honesty

At the University of Florida every student signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University." The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing is subject to an automatic E and further disciplinary action. All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception.

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

**If you are repeating this course at UF, please be aware that turning in any part of any written assignment that you submitted for this course in the past also constitutes academic misconduct. See "Scope and Violations" under the Honor Code above.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>.

Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

It is the policy of the University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. This includes information sent through e-mail. Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in any form will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. For more specific information, please see www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass (Located in the General Information section of the University Catalog.)

University Counseling Services

Contact information:

Counseling Center

Address:

3190 Radio Rd.

P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: www.counsel.ufl.edu

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