

# MUT 2641 Jazz Improvisation

*(offered Fall and Spring)*

## Spring 2016 Syllabus

**Instructor:** Scott Wilson

**Course Meeting Time and Location:** TBA.

**Credit Hours:** 2 credits

**Instructor:** Jazz Adjunct

**Jazz Office Location:** School of Music: Room 354

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

**Contact:** [swilson@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:swilson@arts.ufl.edu) / **Office phone:** 352-273-3184

### 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](http://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](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 Sakai.**

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## **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).
- Sakai 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!

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## **ATTENDANCE AND GRADING**

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.

### ***Class/Examination/Professional Conflicts***

University classes/examinations that conflict with rehearsals or performances must be reported at least two weeks prior to the class/examination using a Class Conflict Form, which may be obtained from Sakai. Complete the entire form, staple a copy of the class syllabus to the form, and place it in the "Class Conflict Forms" box in the Band Office. If your conflict is reported in the correct time frame it will be approved.

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### **Grading Policy On Absences**

- 3 unexcused rehearsal absences/partial attendance = maximum semester grade of B
  - 4 unexcused rehearsal absences/partial attendance = maximum semester grade of C
  - 5 unexcused rehearsal absences/partial attendance = maximum semester grade of D
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## **JAZZ VIDEOS**

It is recommended that you review the 35 Jazz Instructional Videos available on your online book platform.

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# ALL IN CLASS PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRED

**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 9<sup>th</sup> and arp. to 9<sup>th</sup> (Track 1 Major) (4 bars each).
    2. 6 Dorian Scales – play minor scale and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup> (Track 2 Minor Dorian 18) (4 bars each).
    3. 6 Dominant Scales – play bebop scale and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup> (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.

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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-**

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## Jazz Improvisation 1

### WEEK 1

1. Take audition for jazz placement. The Audition Sign Up Sheet is on the jazz band display case.
  2. Purchase Jamey Aebersold albums for this course.
  3. All jazz students must attend the beginning of the semester Jazz Meeting.
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### WEEK 2

#### In Class Exercises

1. Practice Blue Bossa in class and prepare for test.
  2. Play Major Scales to 9th and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup>. Student will play to the Getting It Together Jamey Aebersold (Track 1 – Major Scales). The track plays each example for 4 bars. This exercise will help students prepare for the Midterm.
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### WEEK 3

#### In Class Test

##### Blue Bossa:

1. Students must play melody by memory (40 points)
  2. Arpeggiate Major chords to 9<sup>th</sup> (40 points) For test, use the “Major 7 Arpeg. Ex. MP3.”
  3. Take 2 choruses of solos and hit chord tones (20 points)
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### WEEK 4

#### In Class Exercises

1. Practice Blue Train and prepare for test.
  2. Play Minor Scales to 9th and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup>. Student will play to the Getting It Together Jamey Aebersold (Track 2 – Minor Dorian 18). The track plays each example for 4 bars. This exercise will help students prepare for the Midterm.
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### WEEK 5

#### In Class Test

##### Blue Train:

1. Students must play melody by memory (40 points)
  2. Arpeggiate all Minor chords to 9<sup>th</sup> (40 points) For test, use the “Min 7 Arpeg. Ex. MP3.”
  3. Take 2 choruses of solos and hit chord tones (20 points)
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### WEEK 6

#### In Class Exercises

1. Practice Recorda-Me and prepare for test.
2. Play Bebop Scale and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup>. Student will play to the Getting It Together Jamey Aebersold (Track

16 – Dominant7). The track plays each example for 4 bars. This exercise will help students prepare for the Midterm.

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## WEEK 7

### In Class Test

Recorda-Me:

1. Students must play melody by memory (40 points)
  2. On Recorda-Me, arpeggiate all chords to 7<sup>th</sup> in time with play along (40 points)
  3. Take 2 choruses of solos and hit chord tones (20 points)
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## WEEK 8

MID TERM SCALE TEST (Use Getting It Together Album)

Track 1 Major (4 bars)

1. 6 Major Scales – play major scale to 9<sup>th</sup> and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup> (Track 1 Majors) (4 bars each).
  2. 6 Dorian Scales – play minor scale and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup> (Track 2 Minor Dorian 18) (4 bars each).
  3. 6 Dominant Scales – play bebop scale and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup> (Track 16 Dominant) (4 bars)
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## WEEK 9

Spring Break

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## WEEK 10

### In Class Exercises

1. Practice Autumn Leaves and prepare for test.
  2. Play 1,2,b3,4,5,b3,2,1 in all 12 keys. This will help you practice for the final.
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## WEEK 11

### In Class Test

Autumn Leaves :

1. Students must play melody by memory (40 points)
  2. On Autumn Leaves, arpeggiate all chords to 7<sup>th</sup> in time with play along (40 points)
  3. Take 2 choruses of solos and hit chord tones (20 points)
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## WEEK 12

### In Class Exercises

1. Practice Locomotion and prepare for test.
  2. Play Bebop Scale and arpeggiate to 9<sup>th</sup>. Student will play to the Getting It Together Jamey Aebersold (Track 16 – Dominant7). The track plays each example for 4 bars. This exercise will help students prepare for the Midterm.
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## WEEK 13

### In Class Test

Locomotion :

1. Students must play melody by memory (40 points)
2. On Locomotion, arpeggiate chords to 9<sup>th</sup> in time with play along (40 points)

3. Take 2 choruses of solos and hit chord tones (20 points)

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## **WEEK 14**

### **In Class Exercises**

Make Up Week. Students may try to pass off missed exercises.

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## **WEEK 15**

### **In Class Test**

Student will play 1,2,b3,4,5,b3,2,1 in all 12 keys.

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## **WEEK 16**

### **FINAL EXAM**

1. 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.