

MUT 2641 Jazz Improvisation

Spring 2020

Instructor: Carlos Vizoso (cvizoso@ufl.edu)

Course Meeting Time and Location: TBA.

Credit Hours: 2 credits

Jazz Office Location: School of Music: Room 354

Office Hours: Office hours can be made available upon request Monday through Friday.

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 one 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 one percent 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 class meetings. 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 Policy

All class meetings 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 an absence.

It is required to check the Canvas announcements online every week. This is critical to minimize e-mail traffic, student questions, to lower student anxiety, and it helps to inform students of concerts they can attend. NOTE: Students often have the same questions that need to be. With that in mind, the "Announcements" will be the medium that the instructor communicates all answers to basic questions. In some cases, a student's question will require a personal response, and in those cases, a personal response will be issued to the student. Please note that you may be penalized -5 points for not reading the Announcements or for not being aware of their content. This ensures scholarly activity from our talented students in terms of being accountable to read instructor communication during the course.

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)
 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

NOTE: A Passing Grade of B is required for this course to count towards the UF Jazz Minor.

Resource: UF Grading Policy Website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>

Make-ups for Exams or Other Work

In order to remain fair to all students enrolled in this course who are held to the same academic standard, make-ups for any assignment will require written documentation that the student has been excused from school during the time in question. Without this approval we cannot issue a make-up. This includes all requests for permission to grant a make-up for personal issues involving family, work, deaths, hardships, marriages, pregnancies, illnesses, financial problems, etc. We do apologize for this inconvenience, however, in this rigorous academic environment this documentation is needed to ensure the accuracy of all claims made. This is also critical in terms of treating all students equal, minimizing false claims and it helps to ensure faculty resources and time are not being wasted.

Students with disabilities

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

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.ua.ufl.edu/ua/affact/harass (Located in the General Information section of the University Catalog.)

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the

University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.”
