

MUSC 5A Course Outline as of Fall 2013**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: MUSC 5A Title: BEGINNING JAZZ IMPROV

Full Title: Beginning Jazz Improvisation

Last Reviewed: 5/11/2020

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	17.5	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade Only

Repeatability: 39 - Total 2 Times

Also Listed As:

Formerly: MUS 5.1A

Catalog Description:

This course provides instrumental students with the tools and techniques for jazz improvisation at a beginning level. Topics include scales, arpeggios, the elements of jazz harmony, the blues, and characteristic chord progressions.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Ability to play all major scales on a musical instrument.

Limits on Enrollment:**Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course provides instrumental students with the tools and techniques for jazz improvisation at a beginning level. Topics include scales, arpeggios, the elements of jazz harmony, the blues, and characteristic chord progressions. (Grade Only)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Ability to play all major scales on a musical instrument.

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Total 2 Times

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:

IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
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CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
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UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
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CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Perform the scales, modes, and arpeggios used in jazz improvisation.
2. Analyze jazz chord progressions, identifying appropriate scales, arpeggios, and/or melodic patterns for improvisation.
3. Construct stylistically appropriate jazz lines from previously analyzed examples.
4. Compare and contrast styles of improvisation from recorded examples.

Repeating students will be able to:

1. Improvise at a higher skill level and on more difficult repertoire.
2. Demonstrate greater technical achievement on their instrument.
3. Articulate musical phrases with greater clarity.
4. Perform with higher standards of intonation.
5. Demonstrate a more sophisticated comprehension of dynamics, phrasing, musical expression, and nuance.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Scales commonly used in jazz and their application
 - A. Major
 - B. Dorian
 - C. Mixolydian
 - D. Pentatonic
 - E. Blues scales
- II. Stylistically appropriate use of rhythm
- III. Arpeggio exercises
 - A. Major sevenths
 - B. Dominant sevenths
 - C. Minor sevenths
 - D. Diminished and half-diminished sevenths
- IV. Melodic fragments played around the circle of fourths

- V. Ear training through instrumental "call and response" based on the above scales, arpeggios, and patterns
- VI. Blues form
- VII. The II-V-I progression
- VIII. Combo performance and rhythm section techniques
 - A. Bass lines
 - B. Comping: Voicings for piano and guitar
 - C. The role of the drummer
 - D. Trading fours and other ensemble techniques
- IX. Performance and improvisation upon standard jazz repertoire
- X. Repeating students will perform new music each semester, building on both their skill level and knowledge of the repertoire.

Assignment:

1. Perform scale and arpeggio exercises with stylistically appropriate rhythm from memory.
2. Perform twelve-bar Blues form from memory.
3. Class performances of 5 - 7 jazz compositions.
4. The final exam is an in-class performance.
5. Repeating students will be held to higher standards of performance with each repetition.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

None, This is a degree applicable course but assessment tools based on writing are not included because skill demonstrations are more appropriate for this course.

Writing
0 - 0%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances

Skill Demonstrations
70 - 80%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Exams
0 - 0%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and class participation

Other Category 20 - 30%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Aebersold, Jamey. A New Approach to Jazz Improvisation, Volume 54 (Maiden Voyage) CD and text: 1991. (Classic text)

Instructor prepared materials.