

Improvisation II

MUSA 3255 - 001

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 133

Contact: 747-7805, creyman@utep.edu

Office Hours: M/W 10:30am-11:30am, T/Th 10:30am-12:00pm

*Please let me if you'd like to meet (even if it is during my scheduled office hours).
I will do my best to make myself available at times other than these listed - just ask!

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00pm-12:50pm

Location: FFA M102

Required Materials:

- 1) 3-ring binder for materials
- 2) staff paper for assignments and notes
- 3) metronome
- 4) ability to listen to mp3s and Youtube while playing your instrument

Attendance policy: Students will be given daily grades for participation in class. If a student is not in class (including tardiness), they will not receive credit for that class period. Students with three or more unexcused absences will not receive a grade higher than a B. Of course, you will be excused for university-related events as long as they are approved by me at least two weeks in advance via email correspondence.

Course Description

Application of improvisational practices in commercial styles focused on theoretical analysis, ear training and improvising with diatonic and chromatic melodic and harmonic devices.

Course Goals

- Develop music skills through listening, analysis and performance
- Demonstrate deep listening and theoretical skills through transcription and improvisation
- Develop flexibility to adapt to ever-changing musical environments

Improvisation also enables students to:

- Build openness to unexpected and unpredictable situations
- Foster willingness to take chances and get out of comfort zone

Course Activities

- 1) ear training
- 2) theory tests
- 3) playing assignments
- 4) listening assignments
- 5) theory analysis
- 6) transcription projects
- 7) group/ensemble performance assignments

Course Schedule (tentative)

week 1-3

Tunes:

from recording and lead sheet (melody and improvisation)

Like Someone in Love (Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke)

from lead sheet (melody and improvisation)

Billie's Bounce (Charlie Parker)

Straight, No Chaser (Thelonious Monk)

omnibook excerpt

by ear (melody only)

I Got Rhythm (George Gershwin)

Lester Leaps In (Lester Young)

Assign Transcription #1: *Like Someone in Love* (Diana Krall - Turn Up the Quiet) vocal, piano, guitar, and bass (choose 1)

PERFORMANCE AND TRANSCRIPTION EXAM 1: Feb. 11

week 4-7

Tunes:

from recording and lead sheet (melody and improvisation)

I'm Beginning to See the Light (Duke Ellington, Don George, Johnny Hodges and Harry James)

from lead sheet

Blues for Alice (Charlie Parker)

I Mean You (Thelonious Monk)

omnibook excerpt

by ear (melody only)

Rhythm-a-ning (Thelonious Monk)

Flintstones (Hoyt Curtin, Joseph Barbera and William Hanna)

Assign Transcription #2: *Like Someone in Love* (Diana Krall - Turn Up the Quiet) vocal, piano, guitar, and bass (choose 1)

PERFORMANCE AND TRANSCRIPTION EXAM 2: March 5

week 8-10

Tunes:

from recording (melody and improvisation)

Honeysuckle Rose (Fats Waller)

Blue Trane (John Coltrane)

omnibook excerpt

by ear (melody only)

Cottontail (Duke Ellington)

Oleo (Sonny Rollins)

Assign Transcription #3: *Blue Trane* - saxophone, trumpet, trombone (choose 1)

PERFORMANCE AND TRANSCRIPTION EXAM 3: April 7

week 10-13

Tunes:

Sunny Side of the Street (Fats Waller) melody and improvisation

from lead sheet (melody only)

Donna Lee (Charlie Parker)

Anthropology (Charlie Parker)

omnibook excerpt

Assign Transcription #4: *Blue Trane* - saxophone, trumpet, trombone (choose 1)

PERFORMANCE AND TRANSCRIPTION EXAM 4: April 30

Like Someone in Love

I'm Beginning to See the Light

Honeysuckle Rose

Sunny Side of the Street

FINAL EXAM May 12, 1-3:45pm

Grade Breakdown

Class assignments/performances: 25% = 1%/class (25 classes, not including exams)

Unit tests: 30% total

Performance Exam #1 = 6%

Performance Exam #2 = 7%

Performance Exam #3 = 8%

Performance Exam #4 = 9%

Transcription projects: 30% total

Transcription Project #1 = 6%

Transcription Project #2 = 7%

Transcription Project #3 = 8%

Transcription Project #4 = 9%

Final Exam: 15%

Statement for Accommodations and Support

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact *The Center for Accommodations and Support Services* (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/CASS.

**I want this class to be beneficial to you personally. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns you may have about a particular assignment, the class as a whole or anything else.

***The content of this course is subject to change at any time. I will be adjusting the course to fit the particular needs and interests of this group of students. If anything changes in how I will evaluate you, I will let you know as soon as I can.