

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

Attendance policy:

Students will be given 3 unexcused absences. I will work with each of you if you miss classes due to illness. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK.** 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. 8th

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 3rd

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 5th

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 28

FINAL EXAM May 10, 1-3:45pm

Like Someone in Love

I'm Beginning to See the Light

Honeysuckle Rose

Sunny Side of the Street

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.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

**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.