

Special Topics in Music
Jazz Composition and Harmony
MUSG 5335
3 credits

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 133

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Class Time: TBA

Location: FFA 133

Office Hours:

Mondays/Wednesdays 12:30PM, Tuesdays 10:30AM-11:30AM and by appointment

Course Objective

This course will focus on jazz composition through study, transcription, and composition projects from common practice to progressive approaches.

Text

Jazz Composer's Companion by Gil Goldstein

Modal Jazz Composition and Harmony, vol. 1 by Ron Miller

Course Activities

- Composition assignments (parameter-based, style-based, model-based)
- Transcription and analysis of jazz compositions by representative musicians
- Topics will include (but are not limited to): melody contour, modes, mode mixture, harmony, chord-scale relationships, rhythm, form, progressive approaches to jazz composition

Course Schedule

Week 1, Aug. 25: Creative Practice

Reading Assignment #1: JCC pp81-115 and MJCH pp6-10
Intro to diatonic harmony and mode mixture

Week 2, Sept. 1: Melody

Reading Assignment #2: JCC pp13-39
Composition Assignment #1: JCC p18 (#4), p19 (#5), p 20-21, due Sept. 8
10:30AM

- Week 3, Sept. 8: Melody continued
“Horizon,” “August First,” “Penumbra,” “Wallfacer”
Composition Assignment #2: JCC p24-25, p28, p32, due Sept. 15 10:30AM
- Week 4, Sept. 15: Melody continued, contrafact
Composition Assignment #3: Compose a new melody to 3 jazz standards, due Sept. 22 10:30AM
- Week 5, Sept. 22: Harmony
Reading Assignment #3: JCC pp41-64
Composition Assignment #4: JCC pp43-44, 46, 49-50, due Sept. 29 10:30AM
- Week 6, Sept. 29: Harmony continued
Composition Assignment #5: JCC p51, 53-54, 56-57, 59, 61, 64, due Oct. 6
Composition Assignment #6: reharmonize a standard with diatonic harmony
- Week 7, Oct. 6: Harmony continued
“Penumbra,” “August First,” “On the Rise”
Reading Assignment #5: MJCH pp12-30
Composition Assignment #7: MJCH p18, 25, 30, due Oct. 13 10:30AM
Composition Assignment #8: reharmonize a jazz standard using chromatic harmony, due Oct. 13 10:30AM
- Week 8, Oct. 13: Harmony continued
Reading Assignment #6: MJCH pp32-48
Composition Assignment #9: MJCH p36, 42, 48, due Oct 20, 10:30AM
Composition Assignment #10: reharmonize a jazz standard using common tones and pedal points, due Oct 20, 10:30AM
- Week 9, Oct. 20: Harmony continued
Reading Assignment #7: MJCH pp50-62
Composition Assignment #11: MJCH p54-56, 58, 62, due Oct 27, 10:30AM
Composition Assignment #12: reharmonize a jazz standard using upper structures and grips, due Oct 27, 10:30AM
- Week 10, Oct. 27: Harmony continued
Reading Assignment #8: MJCH pp66-88, 96-110
Composition Assignment #13: MJCH p86, due Nov. 3, 10:30AM
Composition Assignment #14: reharmonize 1 jazz standard using slash chords and 1 jazz standard using polychords, due Nov. 3, 10:30AM
- Week 11, Nov. 3: Rhythm and Form
Reading Assignment #9: JCC pp65-77 and MJCH p63-64
Composition Assignment #15: Use melodic rhythm of a jazz standard to compose a new composition. Use the form of a jazz standard to compose a new composition. Due Nov. 10

Week 12, Nov. 10: Rhythm and Form continued
Thelonious Monk: transcribe, notate and analyze 3 Thelonious Monk compositions
Composition Assignment #16: Compose 3 new compositions inspired by the Thelonious Monk compositions, due Nov. 17

Week 13. Nov. 17: Progressive Approaches to Jazz Composition
Andrew Hill: Point of Departure (1965), Dusk (1999), Timelines (2005)
Composition Assignment #17: Compose 3 new compositions inspired by the Andrew Hill compositions, due Nov. 24 (via email)

Week 14, Nov. 24: no class (see next week)

Week 15-16, Dec. 1: Progressive Approaches to Jazz Composition
“Eleven,” “10/8”
Composition Assignment #18: Compose 8 compositions of varying styles that could all be programmed together on a recital or album. Due Dec. 9, 10:30AM

Attendance Policy

Meetings that are missed without prior notification (email or phone call/text before the scheduled lesson time) will have an adverse effect on the student’s grade.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated for each individual lesson, as well as an end of the semester jury. Other assignments may include: performance reviews, listening assignments, transcription projects and masterclasses.

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

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