

# **Jazz and Improvisation Pedagogy**

## **MUSE 5397**

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Reyman

**Office:** FFA 133

**Contact:** 747-7805, [creyman@utep.edu](mailto:creyman@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm

\*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:** TBA

**Location:** FFA 133

### **Selected Texts**

1. Required: *Jazz Styles: History and Analysis* by Mark C. Gridley (Prentice Hall) \*\*\*\*\*available in music library\*\*\*\*\*
2. Required: *The Great Jazz Pianists: Speaking of their Lives and Music* by Len Lyons (Quill)
3. Optional: *Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art* by Stephen Nachmanovitch (Penguin PutnamInc.)
4. Optional: *Effortless Mastery: Liberating the Master Musician Within* by Kenny Werner (Jamey Aebersold Jazz)

### **Attendance Policy**

Students will be given daily grades for participation in class. If a student is not in class (including excessive tardiness), s/he will not receive a grade for that class period. Students with three or more unexcused absences will not receive a grade higher than a B. Of course, students 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**

An in-depth study of methods for teaching jazz and improvisation to students of various levels through research, writing assignments, readings and the through the practice of teaching.

### **Course Goals**

- Develop jazz and improvisation teaching skills
- Build understanding of historical context of jazz and improvised music
- Practice directing jazz/commercial ensembles and teaching jazz/improvisation
- Gain appreciation for improvisation as an art form
- Write syllabi for jazz and improvisation courses
- Write Teaching Philosophy

## Course Overview

- Jazz ensemble directing methods
- Jazz/Commercial Piano methods
- Methods for teaching improvisation
- Designing courses and writing syllabi
- Developing a “Teaching Philosophy”
- Writing a cover letter
- Chronological study of jazz/commercial piano styles

## Course Schedule

### MODULE 1: Teaching and pedagogy

Complete the following before **September 16**:

- Video record yourself teaching 1 Commercial Piano class and complete Self-Evaluation 1 (see below). Send recordings and evaluations to me via email.
- Complete observation of 1 teacher/professor using Teaching Evaluation 1 criteria and send 250-word critique to me via email.

Teaching Philosophy:

Write a 1 page teaching philosophy. **Due September 14.**

Bibliography:

Complete an annotated bibliography of jazz piano improvisation books that could be used to teach at the college level. Cite each source and include a 100-word summary of topics covered in each text. Include url for where each book can be purchased. Due at midterm: **Friday, October 7.**

Complete the following before **October 7**:

- Video record yourself teaching 1 private lesson and complete self-evaluation using the Peer Evaluation rubric (handout). Send recordings and evaluations to me via email.
- Complete observation of 1 teacher/professor using Peer Evaluation rubric and send 250-word critique to me via email.

## MODULE 2: Jazz and improvised music education

Complete the following before **November 4:**

- Video record yourself teaching 1 Commercial Piano class and complete self-evaluation using Teaching Evaluation 1 rubric (see below). Send recordings and evaluations to me via email.
- Complete observations of 1 teacher/professor using Teaching Evaluation 1 rubric and send 250-word critique to me via email.

Reading due: Gridley's *Jazz Styles*, Chap. 1 (Intro), Chap. 2 (What is Jazz?) and Chap. 3 (Appreciating Jazz Improvisation). Write a brief reflection on the assigned reading, due **October 12**.

Reading due: Gridley's *Jazz Styles*, Chap. 4 (Origins of Jazz), Chap. 5 (Early Jazz), Chap. 6 (Swing) Write a brief reflection on the assigned reading, due **October 19**.

Reading due: Gridley's *Jazz Styles*, Chap. 7 (Duke Ellington), Chap. 8 (Count Basie), Chap. 9 (Bop), Chap. 10 (Cool), Chap. 11 (Hard Bop). Write a brief reflection on the assigned reading, due **October 26**

Reading due: Gridley's *Jazz Styles*, Chap. 12 (Miles Davis), Chap. 13 (Coltrane), Chap. 15 (pianists). Write a detailed outline of the pianists that worked with Miles Davis and discuss their significant work within and outside his band. Due **November 2**.

## MODULE 3: Professional development

Complete the following before **December 2nd:**

- Video record yourself teaching 1 private lesson and complete a Self-Evaluation using Peer Evaluation rubric (handout). Send recordings and evaluations to me via email.
- Complete observations of 1 teacher/professor using Peer Evaluation rubric and send 250-word critique to me via email.

Complete before **November 9th:**

- Lyons *Jazz Pianists*, choose 1 interview and write a 250-word reflection on the reading

Design a 2-semester (16 weeks each) sequence of a Jazz/Commercial Piano course and write a syllabus for each semester. Due **November 9th**.

Complete before **November 16th:**

- Lyons *Jazz Pianists*, choose 1 interview and write a 250-word

reflection on the reading

Outline chronological history of jazz styles, including significant musicians, due **November 23**

Complete before **November 23rd**:

- Lyons *Jazz Pianists*, choose 1 interviews and write a 250-word reflection on the reading

Find a job announcement and write a cover letter. Due **November 30th**.

Complete before **November 30th**:

- Lyons *Jazz Pianists*, choose 1 interviews and write a 250-word reflection on the reading

Complete by **December 9th, 11:59PM**:

- Lyons *Jazz Pianists*, choose 3 interviews and write a 250-word reflection on each

Find a job announcement and write a cover letter. Due by **December 9th, 11:59PM**.

Complete by **December 9th 11:59PM**: An updated version of your 1-page teaching philosophy

### **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](mailto: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](http://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.

## Teaching Evaluation 1

1. What worked?
2. What didn't work?
3. What could be done differently?