

MUSA 1285 Individual Instruction/Improvisation

Instructor: Shaun Mahoney

Office: 403. Office hours available by email appointment.

Email: stmahoney@utep.edu

Required Materials:

- Each student is required to bring their instruments to class.
- Smart Phone Apps: iReal Pro, DrumGenius
- Note taking materials
- Reliable internet connection for locating transcription material on youtube.com

Course Description: Advanced Improvisation III is designed for the development and application of materials introduced in *Improvisation I and II*.

Course Objective:

- The primary objective for this course is for students to improvise melodies based on chord changes. This includes memorizing songs, performing improvised solos over a variety of chord progressions and styles, and becoming adept at working within a small ensemble.
- The secondary objective is ear training. Ear training skill will be developed through transcription assignments during the semester.

Course Schedule:

Module 1 (Weeks 1-3):

- Rhythm Changes – Compose chorus
- Unconventional Harmony/Whole Tone (JuJu, Fee fi Fo Fum by Wayne Shorter)
- Transcription assignments.

Module 2 (Weeks 4-6):

- How Insensitive (Bossa)
- Alt Dom

- Impressions (Playing Fast)
- Transcription assignment

Module 3 (Weeks 7-10):

- Bird Blues/Confirmation
- Latin Jazz (Spain)
- Transcription assignment

Module 4 (Weeks 11-14):

- Odd Meter
- Advanced standard (Moment's Notice, Stablemates, Giant Steps etc)
- ii - Valt - Imaj around circle of 4ths using alt dom
- ii-7b5 – Valt – i-7
- Prepare for final

Course Assignments:

Performance Quizzes – Students will be assigned songs to work on each week. They are expected to memorize the melody and chords. Improvised solos should be based on tools used in class. Students will be graded on their class performances.

Transcriptions – There will be transcription assignments throughout the semester. Transcriptions will be played by memory along with recording.

Performance Quizzes:

Students will be graded on in-class performances of the weekly material. There will be 10-15 quiz grades depending on the progress of the semester.

Transcription/Analysis:

There will be 5-10 transcriptions for the semester. They will be played along with the recording in class, by memory.

Final Exam:

The final exam content will be announced in the last few weeks of the semester.

Grading

Grading for the course will be based on performance evaluations. On each performance/evaluation day, students will perform songs they have been rehearsing for the previous weeks. These performances will be graded based on learning/memorizing the songs, improvising on the chord changes, and overall performance. Attendance will also count towards your final grade.

Attendance/Class participation: 10%
Performances and Transcriptions: 80%
Final Exam: 10%

Attendance: Students will be allowed one unexcused absence. There will be no make-ups. Missed assignments will count as zeroes.

Accommodations: 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.

Statements on Academic Honesty and Accessibility are posted at:
<http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm>; <http://www.utep.edu/dsso>