

MUSA 3255 Improvisation II

Instructor: Shaun Mahoney

Office: 403. I am available by appointment.

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Required Materials:

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

Course Description: Advanced Improvisation II is designed for the development and application of materials introduced in Improvisation I. A variety of pieces will be chosen as a vehicle for improv.

Course Objective: The primary objective for this course is for students to improvise over chord progressions using a variety of tools including scales, arpeggios, and jazz/blues vocabulary.

Course Assignments:

Performance Quizzes – Students will be assigned songs to work on each week. You will be expected to memorize melody, chords, and execute improvised solos over the chord changes of each song.

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

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>