

MUSA 3256 Advanced Improvisation II

Instructor: Shaun Mahoney

Office: 403. Office hours are posted on my door. I am available by appointment.

Email: stmahoney@utep.edu

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 *Intro to Improvisation* and *Improvisation I*. Students will be put into groups, choose a variety of pieces and improvise based on the chosen pieces. During most class periods, students will split up, rehearse in groups and receive coaching from the course instructor.

Course Objective: The primary objective for this course is for students to improvise and arrange within a small ensemble setting. This includes learning/memorizing songs quickly, performing improvised solos over a variety of chord progressions and styles, and becoming adept at working within a small ensemble.

Topic Covered:

Major Modes

Mel Minor Modes

Pentatonic Scales

Extended 7th Chords

Functional Chord Progressions

Non-Functional Harmony

Transcription and Analysis

Phrasing

Commercial Music Styles: Jazz, Funk, Groove, Rock etc.

Odd Meters

Poly-Rhythms
Memorizing Songs
Improvising in a group
Intros and Codas

Class Performances/Evaluations:

Sep 14
Sep 28
Oct 12
Oct 26
Nov 9
Nov 30
FINAL EXAM

Grading

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

Attendance/Class participation: 30%
Performances/Evaluations: 70%

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

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>