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. Groups will switch off approximately every three weeks after class performances. 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.

Class Performances/Evaluations:  
Sep 6th  
Sep 20th  
Oct 4th  
Oct 18th  
Nov 1st  
Nov 15th  
Nov 29th
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