MUSA 3256 Advanced Improvisation II

Instructor: Shaun Mahoney
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Required Materials:
- The Jazz Theory Workbook by Mark Boling. Available at the UTEP bookstore.
- Each student is required to bring their instruments to class.
- Paper and pencil for note taking
- Reliable internet connection for locating transcription material on youtube.com

Course Description: This course is designed around a succession of progressively more complex jazz compositions. With each song, a new improvisational topic will be introduced and applied.

Course Objective: The objective of this course is the comprehension and application of advanced improvisational tools, methods, and conceptual ideas.

Course Schedule:
Week 1: Chord Structures and Symbols; Chapter 2, swing 8\textsuperscript{th} notes/triplets, written quiz.

Week 2: Major Scale Modes; Chapter 3, major scale patterns and arpeggios, improvising on one chord (melodic ideas based on rhythm), playing quiz.

Week 3: Little Sunflower and Triplets; Apply major scale patterns and arpeggios, apply triplets, transcription 1.

Week 4: So What; swing 8\textsuperscript{th} notes, modal melodic development, AABA form, playing quiz.

Week 5: All Blues; Pentatonic scales, Playing in ¾, Transcription 2.
Week 6: **Major ii-V-I**; Chapter 4, compose ten ii-V-I lines (4 bars each), ii-V-I melodic structures, playing quiz.

Week 7: **Tune Up**; Midterm playing test and transcription 3.

Week 8: **Dominant 7th Substitutions**; Chapter 4, dominant pentatonic scales, symmetrical scales, playing quiz.

Week 9: **Melodic Minor Modes**; Chapter 3, playing on melodic minor modes, written quiz.

Week 10: **Minor ii-V-I**; Chapter 4, compose ten ii-V-I lines (4 bars each), ii-V-I melodic structures, playing quiz.

Week 11: **Equinox**; Playing quiz.

Week 12: **Jazz Blues**; Chapter 4, turnarounds, transcription 4.

Week 13: **Bebop**; Play bebop melody and compose one chorus based on similar lines in melody.

Week 14: **Impressions/Up Tempo**

Week 15: **Final Exam**; Equinox, Tune Up, transcription 5.

**Transcription:** Transcription work will be assigned periodically and graded as homework. All transcriptions will be expected to be played in class.

**Quizzes:** There will be playing quizzes and a couple of written quizzes based on the comprehension of material covered. Grades of playing quizzes will be based on rhythmic and harmonic accuracy.

**Tests:** There will be midterm exam based on **Tune Up**. And the final will be based on material covered throughout the semester.
**Grading:** The overall final grades will be determined by the following:

*Transcriptions: 20%*
*Quizzes: 40%*
*Tests: 40%*

**Attendance:** Students will be allowed one absence. There will be no make-ups. Missed assignments will count as zero’s.

**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