

COURSE SYLLABUS



Education That Works For a Lifetime

|   |   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Course Title:</b>  | <b>Special Topics: Introduction to Jazz Improvisation</b>   | <b>Date of last update:</b><br>(If this syllabus is being changed as part of a course change or new course proposal, enter the date of the proposal) | <b>September 2005 (05-52)</b> |  |                              |  |
| <b>Department:</b>  | <b>English/Humanities</b>   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Curriculum:</b>  | <b>Music</b>  |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Course Descriptors:</b><br>(Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.) | <b>Course Code:</b> (eg. ACC 101) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td><b>MUS*</b></td></tr> </table>  | <b>MUS*</b>  | <b>Prerequisites:</b><br>None |  |                              |  |
|   | <b>MUS*</b>   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | <b>Course Type:</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td><b>L/U</b></td></tr> </table>   | <b>L/U</b>   |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | <b>L/U</b>  |  |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | L: Lecture B: Lab X: Combined Lecture/Lab<br>U: Studio N: Internship P: Practicum<br>D: Distance Learning I: Individual / Independent   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | <b>Credit Hours:</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td><b>3</b></td></tr> </table>  | <b>3</b>   |                               |  | <b>Corequisites:</b><br>None |  |
|   | <b>3</b>  |  |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | <b>Developmental:</b> (yes/no) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td><b>No</b></td></tr> </table>   | <b>No</b>  |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | <b>No</b>   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
|   | Lecture : <b>3</b><br>Lab: <b>0</b>   | <b>Other Requirements:</b><br>Must provide an instrument and a music stand   |                               |  |                              |  |
| Contact Hours: Clinical : <b>0</b>  |   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| TOTAL : <b>3</b>  |   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Class Maximum:</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td><b>15</b></td></tr> </table>  | <b>15</b>   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>15</b>   |   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Semesters Offered:</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td><b>Sp</b></td></tr> </table>                                      | <b>Sp</b>   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Sp</b>   |   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Ability Based Education (ABE) Statement:</b>   | At Tunxis Community College students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learned. The faculty identified the General Education Abilities critical to students' success in their professional and personal lives. In every class, students are assessed on course abilities, sometimes program abilities, and, in most classes, at least one General Education Ability. Students will receive an evaluation of the degree to which they have demonstrated or not demonstrated that General Education Ability. |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Catalog Course Description:</b><br>(Check with the Public Information Office to assure consistent taxonomy, terminology and style.)  | An introduction to the art of jazz improvisation for beginning and intermediate students who have at least 2 to 3 three years of experience on their respective musical instruments. The course will be devoted to chord progressions and scales used in jazz improvisations, jazz rhythms and exercises to practice improvisation on select jazz compositions. <b>Prerequisite: 2 to 3 years experience on a jazz instrument and the ability to read basic sheet music.</b>  |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Course Objectives &amp; Their Evaluation:</b><br>(A broad, content-based statement about what the instructor will attempt to achieve in the course.)                       | Through performance and essay examinations, the student will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. display the nature of jazz rhythms through performance;</li> <li>2. describe and display the relationship between chords and scales;</li> <li>3. identify basic forms used in jazz compositions; and</li> <li>4. display a facility with the basic melodic vocabulary of jazz.</li> </ol>   |  |                               |  |                              |  |
| <b>Specific Outcomes:</b>   | At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:   |  |                               |  |                              |  |

(Measurable skills students will be expected to demonstrate or specific tasks the student should be able to perform, as evidence that the course content has been mastered.)

1. demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between the melodic and harmonic vocabulary of basic jazz theory and their application;
2. display a firm grasp of jazz rhythm; and
3. perform at least three jazz compositions and successfully improvise a solo on the composition.

**Topical Outline:**

- I. Introduction
  - A. The Major Scale
  - B. The Diatonic Scale
- II. Jazz Rhythm
  - A. Syncopation
  - B. Rhythmic Accompaniment
- III. Progressions
  - A. The ii-V-1 Progression
  - B. The Blues Progression
- IV. Modes
  - A. The Dorian Mode
  - B. Miles Davis' "So What" \*
- V. The Blues
  - A. The Blues Scale
  - B. Charlie Parker's "Now the Time" \*
- VI. The Mixolydian Mode
  - A. The V7 Chord
  - B. Miles Davis' "All Blues" \*
- VII. The Jazz Standard
  - A. George Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" \*
  - B. "Autumn Leaves"
- VIII. The Jazz Standard Part 2
  - A. The iii-vi-V-I Progression
  - B. "All the Things You Are"

\* The above jazz compositions are optional and may be subject to change.

**Suggested Instructional Materials**

Reeves, Scott: [Creative Beginnings: An Introduction to Jazz Improvisation](#); Prentice-Hall, Inc.

**Resources,  
Equipment,  
& Special Facilities  
Required:**

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