Jazz Improvisation 1  
Music 246A, 2 Credits  
MWF 9:00-10:00, Snow 181

Instructor:
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Snow 282G  
496-1261  
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Materials:
Required:  
Jazz Improvisation CD 1: Active Listening 1  
Jazz Improvisation CD 2: Active Listening 2  
Jazz Improvisation CD 3: Style Transcription  
Jazz Improvisation CD 4: Reeves 1  
Jazz Improvisation CD 5: Reeves 2  
Jazz Improvisation CD 6: Maiden Voyage  
Jazz Improvisation CD 7: Early Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Cool  
Jazz Improvisation CD 8: Hard Bop, Funky Jazz, Modal  
Jazz Improvisation CD 9: Avant Garde, Fusion, Contemporary, Latin  
Access to a transcription program. Transcribe is available on the department’s practice room computers. The program can be purchased at www.seventhstring.com. Other programs include SlowGold and The Amazing Slowdowner.

Optional (strongly recommended):  
Aebersold, Jamey. *Volume 84: Dominant Seventh Workout*.  

Description:
This course will cover basic concepts necessary to understand and perform fundamentals of jazz improvisation. Means to achieve this goal will include listening, readings, studies in subdivision and articulation, solo analysis, jazz theory, ear training, and application.

Objectives:
1. Develop and demonstrate fundamental skills in jazz articulation and phrasing through analysis, transcription, and teacher instruction of basic jazz performance tendencies.  
2. Develop and demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the theoretical aspects of improvisation. Primary focus will be chord symbols, corresponding scales and patterns, and their use in constructing improvisatory lines.  
3. Develop and demonstrate through hands-on experience the physical and intellectual skills necessary to perform appropriate melodic lines over simple chord progressions. Primary emphasis will be given to the modality, the ii-V7-I progression, and blues.  
4. Establish specialized practice habits and develop skills for ear-training indicative to the needs of the jazz performer/educator through in and out of class exercises and through transcription.  
5. Provide resource knowledge for future development in jazz improvisation.
Topical Outline:

Chapter 1: Practicing
Chapter 2: Essential Listening
Chapter 3: Rhythm
Chapter 4: Major Scales and Major 7th Chords
Chapter 5: Dorian Scales and Minor 7th Chords
Chapter 6: Mixolydian and Bebop 7th Scales, and Dominant 7th Chords
Chapter 7: The ii-V7-I Progression
Chapter 10: The Blues Scale, the Blues Form, and Chord Substitutions

Listening: daily log, listen every day, no specified length of time
Readings and analysis: from text as above, add annotations to printed transcriptions and listen
Written Assignments: worksheets to initiate theoretical comprehension
Playing Test: application (scales, arpeggios, patterns), performed for TA or instructor with assessments given to the instructor
Piano Skills: major, minor, dominant voicings; ii V7 I voicings performed for TA
Style Transcription; transcribe articulation, inflection, and dynamics for Yardbird Suite or Freddie the Freeloader
Ear Training: intervals, basic scales; major, minor, and dominant chords
Tune Learning: Maiden Voyage, Satin Doll, and Watermelon Man or other blues composition
Transcription: student choice, short standard, must include chord symbols
Performance: above tunes, final tune utilizing principles of tune learning in workbook

Course Requirements (prerequisite):

The students must have their own musical instrument and access to a stereo system (minimum: a portable CD, mp3, or other player with headphones) for practicing outside of the class. Students must also have a basic knowledge of music theory and performance skills (major scales and arpeggios): acceptable levels to be determined by the instructor. Jazz improvisation 1 is a 200 level course open to non-music majors but designed for majors. This assumes the student has had a full year of college-level music theory and a full year of private instruction.

Evaluation:

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<td>Readings</td>
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<td>Written Assignments</td>
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<td>Playing Tests</td>
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<td>Written Solos (3)</td>
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<td>Style Transcription</td>
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<td>Transcription</td>
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<td>Final Performance</td>
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Grade Value Percentages

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PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is for the guidance of students only. It does not constitute a contract or an agreement of any sort between the instructor and the student. The instructor reserves the right to change any or all aspects of this course at any time for any reason.

In compliance with applicable disability law, qualified students with a disability may be entitled to “reasonable accommodation.” It is the student’s responsibility to disclose to the teacher any special need she/he may have before the end of the first week of class.