



MUSC 1406

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 1406

Title: Jazz Chamber Music

Catalog Description:

This course will provide small group ensemble experience in the jazz idiom and cover the basic compositional techniques used in small group arranging and composition. Students will learn the techniques of melody interpretation, techniques for melodic development during improvised solos, rhythmic techniques to communicate to other members of the ensemble, small group compositional techniques for harmonizing jazz standards and original compositions, and develop an academic understanding of the history of jazz musicians performing on the students chosen instrument. This course may be repeated.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 1; Lecture: 0; Lab: 1

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: N/A

Corequisites: N/A

Justification:

This course is an integral part of a solid music education in which students gain experience performing in the more prevalent small groups of today's music markets. Its primary goal is to provide students with a small group performance venue to implement 1) rhythmic and musical communication techniques within a small ensemble, 2) learned improvisational techniques, 3) jazz theory with regards to chord = scale relationships, 4) jazz vocabulary, and 5) the compositional techniques used in small group music writing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- memorize seven jazz standards and develop a basic understanding of the techniques involved in tune memorization
- perform no less than five times in public venues as a means to implement their jazz knowledge under the pressures of live performances
- learn the basic compositional techniques used in small group arranging and will gain experience in creating original music through the composition of two original jazz compositions scored for the ensemble
- learn a historical perspective of legendary jazz musicians who have excelled on the student's chosen instrument, and be able to aurally present their findings to the class.

Content:

This course will include:

- tune memorization
- live small group jazz performances
- tests on small group arranging techniques
- two original jazz compositions scored for small ensemble
- academic research in the field of jazz history
- an oral presentation
- performance evaluations.

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Each student will be required to read the jazz textbook and assimilate the theoretical material when practicing and performing. Tests and performance evaluations will be given to test this knowledge and furthermore ensure that the concepts and material can be used in "real time" during a performance.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Through the historical research process, students will be evaluated on their ability to successfully write a research document that accurately reflects the history and impact of historical jazz musicians.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

In a research paper students will draw musical similarities within various styles of music and be able to express their ideas regarding the influence of perennial musicians on various styles of music in the jazz time line and on the musicians of the jazz genera.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

All students will respond verbally to the artistic work of jazz composers regarding the compositional techniques the composer used to create masterful melodies and arrangements. Tests will be given and students evaluated on their ability to recognize these techniques without hearing the music.

Key Performance Indicators:

Each student will be evaluated on their ability to:

- assimilate in performance the theoretical concepts illustrated in the jazz text book: 14%
- perform by memory seven historical jazz standards: 21%
- organize and perform five small group concerts: 30%
- recall on a written test the compositional techniques identified in historical recordings of famed jazz composers: 5%
- implement small group arranging techniques by composing and arranging two original jazz composition scored for the ensemble: 20%
- write an accurate research paper pertaining to the history of historical jazz musicians who have performed on the student's chosen instrument: 10%.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- Scott Wilson, *The Ultimate Jazz Tool Kit*, current edition, Jazz Education Store.

Required materials include:

- student's instrument
- Jazz Real Books and Fake Book
- Arranger's pencils and erasers
- staff paper and sketch paper
- amplification for instruments
- historical jazz resources in library.

Optimum Class Size: 12

Maximum Class Size: 20

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Music Department:

Steve Meredith, DMA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)