



MUSC 1856

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 1856

Title: Private Jazz

Catalog Description:

This course covers the basics of jazz theory in terms of understanding jazz harmony, jazz chord symbols, common jazz scales and modes, jazz articulations, the basics of the tune writing, and techniques in accurately memorizing jazz standards. Lessons will deal with strategies to implement these concepts in jazz performances. Modern practice techniques will be employed and aimed at giving students the necessary insight on how to practice all of their instrument's fundamentals to music recordings in order to maximize their practice time while simultaneously developing their ears and developing an authentic stylistic and rhythmic feel to various musical styles. This course will use the music of the blues, jazz standards, bebop standards, and contemporary music as "play along" tools. In addition, students will research and write a comprehensive document on available jazz resources in the Snow College library. This course may be repeated.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

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

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: N/A

Corequisites: N/A

Justification:

The elements of the jazz styles have permeated nearly all known musical functions, music venues, and music recording industries. This course is vital to ensure that our music graduates have an adequate representation in these markets, insuring that they have been exposed to the necessary resources and skills that will enable them to be highly competitive in the diverse music markets of today. Private jazz lessons offer our students a unique training ground to assimilate the theoretical skills of performing musicians and composers in the majority of styles of music outside of the classical arena (i.e. jazz, smooth jazz, rock, pop, Latin, salsa, etc.). This course will indubitably contribute to the financial success and diversity of our music graduates.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- become familiar with jazz theory and the jazz scales that aid in the improvisation and composition of

jazz music and related styles

- learn to assimilate the rhythmic stylistic signatures of various types of music through practicing their instruments fundamentals along with recordings in the musical styles of jazz, smooth jazz, rock, Latin, pop, etc.
- learn the basics of tune writing with regards to understanding the basic techniques of contemporary song writers and the basic techniques of creating modern chords and modern chord movement
- learn the techniques of tune memorization through identifying the similarities of chord movement that reoccur over and over again in various styles of music
- learn basic recording techniques from the submission of four required tapes of them performing improvisational exercises
- write a research paper geared towards assimilating a comprehensive document on available jazz resources in the Snow College library. Of these available resources they will select five favored jazz texts and identify the strengths of each resource in terms of its content and effective dissemination of valuable information
- orally present and defend their research findings in a jazz course currently being taught at the college.

Content:

This course will include:

- written homework assignments
- jazz scale tests
- tune memorization tests
- exercises in rhythmic styles
- exercises to develop and instill psychomotor responses that are critical when improvising with regards to soloing using
 - downbeats
 - upbeats
 - triplets
 - sixteenth notes
- students will turn in a research document and five book reviews which will also be orally presented to a jazz class.

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.

Students will be evaluated on their ability to successfully write a research document that accurately reflects available jazz resources and available jazz practice tools.

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. Students will work in groups to discuss their findings and present them to various jazz classes being taught at Snow College.

Key Performance Indicators:

Each student will be evaluated on their ability to:

- recall rhythmic style concepts through playing tests: 18%
- play useful jazz scales through scale tests: 12%
- memorize six jazz standards using the techniques discussed: 6%
- produce four record tapes of them improvising with albums using exclusively upbeats, downbeats, eighth notes, and triplets: 40%
- recall on written tests vital information from the jazz text book, jazz flash cards, and jazz recordings: 10%
- implement compositional techniques by composing and arranging two original jazz compositions: 5%
- write an accurate research document of available jazz resources as well as five jazz book reviews: 7%
- orally present their research findings to a jazz class and defend and debate the strengths of each resource in terms of its content and effective dissemination of valuable information: 2%.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

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

Required materials include:

- student's instrument
- access to a piano
- Arranger's pencils and erasers
- staff paper and sketch paper
- six recordable tapes or mini discs
- four sets of jazz flash cards
- jazz books in library
- jazz improvisation resources in library.

Optimum Class Size: 8

Maximum Class Size: 12

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)