



MUSC 3306

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 3306

Title: Jazz Improvisation I

Catalog Description:

This course is the first in a two semester sequence designed to teach musicians the basics of jazz improvisation, especially with regards to the performance and understanding of historical jazz vocabulary, chord/scale relationships, rhythmic interaction within the ensemble, stylistic concepts of melodic interpretation, and the rhythmic invention of scales. This course is required for instrumental performance majors in the Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music degree program.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 2; Lecture: 2; Lab:

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Credit/Clock Comments: Permission of Instructor

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor

Justification:

This course offers an excellent opportunity for Snow College students to develop musicianship and performance skills as related to jazz improvisation. Courses of this type are taught at other NASM accredited institutions in Utah and throughout the US.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Demonstrate good practice habits, and keep track of practice hours using a practice journal or log sheet
- Be able to improvise a solo over a 12-bar blues in each key
- Be able identify basic chord symbols used in jazz and blues notation
- Be able to demonstrate mastery of blues vocabulary
- Learn proper performing technique for a small ensemble
- Learn musical literature (appropriate to skill level) for performance in a small ensemble recital
- Memorize music for performance (where appropriate);

Content:

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- blues scales
- blues rhythm
- blues vocabulary
- blues solo devices
- blues solo transcription
- small ensemble performance
- creation and use of a practice log

General Education Outcomes:

Applied Education Outcomes:

1) Students will acquire entry-level skills specific to and appropriate for employment in their chosen field of study.

Performance using improvisational skills in a small ensemble is one professional setting in which professional musicians regularly find themselves. The ability to play immediately in the small ensemble setting prepares students to perform at a wide variety of venues, and the ability to improvise and read chord symbols is critical to success in this endeavor. Students will receive feedback from their instructor during each class session.

Key Performance Indicators:

Students in private music instruction courses are assessed in the following ways:

- Participation: attendance and participation at class sessions
- Written: Documented practice hours using practice log
- Performance: small ensemble recital
- Written: exams and quizzes on scales, vocabulary and symbols

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Repertoire varies widely from student to student in accordance with individual capabilities and developmental needs.

Individual repertoire may include but is not limited to the following:

- Repertoire is available from a wide variety of sources including online websites that provide free download or in printed form from individual publishers as needed.

Optimum Class Size: 16

Maximum Class Size: 24

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Steve Meredith, DMA, 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)