

Texts/Materials:

- 1) Washut, Syllabus for Beginning Jazz Improvisation (@ Copyworks)
- 2) Aural transcription CD (student provides a blank CD)

Objectives:

- 1) To develop basic skills and concepts related to improvising in the jazz idiom
- 2) To acquire a basic repertoire of jazz tunes (emphasis on blues heads)
- 3) To learn how to listen effectively to recorded jazz performances

Test Dates and other due dates:

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| 1) Listening report | September 1 |
| 2) Playing quizzes | as announced |
| 3) Unit #1 playing exam | October 15 |
| 4) Unit #2 playing exam | December 8 |
| 5) Transcribed solo due | December 10 |
| 6) Aural transcription assignments (blues heads) | as announced |

Topics/Activities:

- 1) Basic jazz harmony: chord construction and notation, chord-scales, guide tones and harmonic lines
- 2) Developing a "time-feel" concept; using the metronome
- 3) Ear-training activities (see activities listed at the end of each chapter of the text):
 - a) developing a concept of jazz phrasing and articulation
 - b) developing the ability to play by ear (including transcriptions of various heads)
 - c) developing musical memory (call & response "dictation" activities)
 - d) developing the ability to transcribe recorded solos
- 4) Scale/pattern studies:
 - a) minor pentatonic, blues--major and minor, major, dorian, and mixolydian/bebop
 - b) basic digital patterns
 - c) harmonic outlines
- 5) Learning/memorizing tunes:
 - a) transposition to other keys
 - b) playing changes @ keyboard
 - c) playing bass lines
- 6) Listening concepts

Tune types to be studied:

- 1) Blues tunes (various "heads" in keys of F, Bb, and Eb): horizontal and vertical approaches
- 2) Bird Blues--progression and head(s): II-V and II-V-I in major and minor

Grading: The course grade will be a composite of "pop" playing quizzes (20%), listening report (5%), unit #1 playing exam (25%), unit #2 playing exam (25%) and solo transcription project (25%). (Note: Graduate credit requires 2 transcriptions or extra project approved by the instructor.)

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