

Fall 2015

## MUS 2109

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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To study the principles of jazz theory through construction and recognition of harmony, melody, and rhythms commonly used in jazz. Analytical methods will be developed to dissect jazz standards and classic solo transcriptions for composition, arranging, and improvisation resources. Students will learn piano technique to access theory studies.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As a result of this class, students should be able to:

1. Recognize aurally and visually the intervals, scales, chords, and chord progressions used in jazz
2. Construct on paper and on their instrument the intervals, scales, chords, and chord progressions used in jazz
3. Transcribe, analyze, and reharmonize jazz standards
4. Sight-sing bebop lines
5. Use common practice jazz nomenclature
6. Understand the theory of improvising over harmony
7. Access theoretical studies at the piano

### **MATERIALS**

1. *Jazzology: The Encyclopedia of Jazz Theory for All Musicians*  
Authors: Robert Rawlins and Nor Eddine Bahha  
Publisher: Hal Leonard  
**ISBN-10: 0634086782**
2. Staff paper and pencils
3. Notation software (optional but preferred)
4. Access to Moodle and UNO email.

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

I will use Moodle and UNO email for correspondence and to make class announcements. You must check the class Moodle page and your UNO email account regularly. Please use my UNO account for emailing class work and communicating.

Handouts, worksheets, assignments, scores, audio files, lectures, and class notes will be made available on Moodle. Copyrighted material is for learning purposes only and must not be duplicated or shared.

I will create a class schedule once we have completed diagnostic testing.

### **GRADING POLICY**

Attendance, participation, and testing are mandatory. Students are required to sight-sing, transcribe, take notes, and complete worksheets in class. Worksheets are due at the end of class for grading. There will be written and piano performance tests. Exams will be comprehensive.

**GRADING SYSTEM**

Attendance = 20%  
 Participation = 20%  
 Tests = 20%  
 Midterm Exam = 20%  
 Final Exam = 20%

**Grades**

90%-100% = A  
 80%-89% = B  
 70%-79% = C  
 60%-69% = D  
 0%-59% = F

**ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY (20%)**

**Attendance is mandatory.** Please come to class on time. Students are tardy if they are more than 10 minutes late to class. Being tardy three times counts as an absence. Please let me know ahead of time if you have to miss class. **Two unexcused absences** are allowed. With each additional absence I reserve the right to lower the final grade by one letter grade. Students are responsible for scheduling missed tests, completing assignments, and getting class notes and handouts.

**PARTICIPATION (20%)**

Class participation includes sight-singing, transcribing, and completing class assignments. These activities will help students assimilate course information and prepare for tests and exams.

**TESTS (20%)**

Four tests are scheduled to evaluate student comprehension of class material. The lowest grade of the four tests will be dropped.

September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	November 5 <sup>th</sup>
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	November 24 <sup>th</sup>

**EXAMS (20%)**

Mid-semester Exam (40%)  
 Thursday, October 9th

Final Exam (60%)  
 Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
 10:00-12:00

**MISSED TESTS AND EXAMS**

It is the responsibility of the student to let me know before they miss tests and exams. Without a valid excuse beforehand, missed tests and exams will receive a 0% grade.

**LATE WORK**

Late assignments must be completed before the following class. The grade will be adjusted to reflect that it was turned in late.

**SUGGESTED TEXTS**

1. The Jazz Theory Book, Mark Levine
2. The Jazz Piano Book, Mark Levine
3. Jazz Theory Resources, Bert Ligon

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

This class is taught in a highly interactive manner. You are expected to participate fully in all activities. Being tardy not only negatively affects your learning (and your grade), but the learning of your classmates. Disrespectful attitudes, actions, or any form of sexual harassment are not acceptable. Turn off all cell phone ringers. Texting, emailing, making or receiving calls, and any online activity is strictly prohibited. If you must communicate with someone outside of class, please excuse yourself from the classroom.

"Theory is the little intellectual dance we do around the music, attempting to come up with rules so we can understand why Charlie Parker and John Coltrane sounded the way they did"

"Be aware of what your eyes see and what your hands feel when you play. Do this just as much as you focus your mind on the mental stuff, and you'll get beyond theory--where you just flow with the music. Aim for that state of grace, when you no longer have to think about theory." -Mark Levine

### IMPORTANT DATES

Please visit <http://www.uno.edu/registrar/bulletin/important-dates.aspx#Fall> to see a full list of important dates.

#### Important Dates\*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee .....	08/18/2015
Semester Classes Begin .....	08/19/2015
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee or withdraw with 100% refund .....	08/25/2015
Last day to apply for December commencement .....	09/25/2015
Final day to drop a course or resign .....	10/14/2015
Mid-semester examinations .....	10/05-10/09/2015
Final examinations .....	12/07-12/11/2015
Commencement .....	12/18/2015

#### Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day .....	09/07/2015
Mid-semester break .....	10/15-10/16/2015
Thanksgiving .....	11/26-11/27/2015

#### Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

#### Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

#### Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

#### Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook:

<http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE FOR UPDATES.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

### **Safety Awareness Facts and Education**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

### **UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares**

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

### **Emergency Procedures**

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

### **Diversity at UNO**

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

### **Learning and Support Services**

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

### **Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity**

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>