

Fall 2015

## MUS 2605

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*University of New Orleans*

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**MUS 2605**  
**MWF 10:00-10:50**  
**PAC 216**

## **Jazz Keyboard Class**

### **Class Schedule**

**Professor Victor Atkins**  
**Office: PAC 338**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
[vatkins@uno.edu](mailto:vatkins@uno.edu)  
**(504) 280-7462**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To equip the non-piano major with jazz piano fundamentals.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Use the keyboard to access studies in jazz theory, composition, arranging, and improvisation
2. Demonstrate various jazz and blues piano styles and techniques
3. Perform on piano jazz standards from lead sheets
4. Play blues in every key on piano

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Students must bring staff paper and pencils to every class, have a UNO email account, and have access to Moodle.

It is most helpful to have notation software, but not required for this class. There is no textbook, however, a fake book of jazz standards in lead sheet form with melody and chord changes is highly recommended. Listening to lots of jazz piano will only expand one's understanding of the instrument and its role in jazz. Please purchase jazz CDs, mp3s, or, lastly, buy a subscription to a streaming music service.

### **CLASS PROCEDURES**

Attendance and participation are mandatory. Assignments and tests are all performed on classroom keyboards. There are no written tests or assignments.

This is a task-oriented performance class driven primarily by exercises and assignments. 15-20 minutes of practice per day should suffice. It would be better to spend a little time at a piano or keyboard every day than do it all in one day.

Class operates on the premise of independent study. Students are expected to practice all assignments and exams and to be prepared to perform them in class on or before the due date. During class students will work on their own and at their own level. The instructor will monitor progress and make suggestions to help students achieve their work goals. Advanced students are encouraged to choose more challenging material.

The computers are for class use only. Material posted on Moodle for class may be accessed as well as any research pertaining to course work.

Moodle is an online tool that will be used for posting announcements and assignments. Students must familiarize themselves with this feature.

## GRADING POLICY

Grades are based on preparation, participation, and performance. Successfully completing the class requires consistent practice to prepare assignments for performance on or before the due date, participating in class activities, and being present and punctual. Attendance is mandatory. There will be two exams.

Assignments = 25%	90-100 = A
Attendance = 25%	80-89 = B
Mid-semester exam = 25%	70-79 = C
Final exam = 25%	0-69 = F

## ASSIGNMENTS (25%)

Weekly assignments will be given to help students assimilate course material.

## ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY (25%)

Because class meets for only 50 minutes, and because of the number of students, it is necessary that students come to class on time so that the instructor can monitor the performance progress of every student in each class meeting. **Students are allowed three unexcused absences from MUS 2606.** The instructor reserves the right to lower the student's final grade by one-half letter grade for each additional absence.

## EXAMS (50%)

Mid-semester exam: Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam: Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00

## CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Please turn off your cell phones. Texting, emailing, and surfing are not allowed during class. Please show respect to your instructor and classmates. The class computers are for class use only. With the permission of the instructor, students who are maintaining satisfactory progress in class may use music software if it relates to class work.

## 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>

#### 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>