

Fall 2015

## MUS 3705

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*University of New Orleans*

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### Recommended Citation

Petersen, Edward, "MUS 3705" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 826.  
<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi/826>

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**Music 3705-Jazz Improvisation  
Fall 2015**

Tuesday and Thursday 11-12:15

Room 103 PAC

Instructor: Edward Petersen

Office: 108C PAC

Office Hours: TBA

Phone-280-7493

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<http://www.jazz-ed.net>

**Student Learning Objectives**

The work that you do in order to successfully complete this class will:

- 1) Improve your understanding of musical forms through the study, memorization, and performance of tunes that are part of the basic jazz repertoire
- 2) Increase your knowledge of improvisational techniques through the transcription, analysis, and performance of the recorded solos of the masters
- 3) Enhance your awareness of important theoretical concepts that can be applied to improvisation
- 4) Help to develop your aural and rhythmic skills

**Materials**

- Music 3705 and 3706 Course Pack (available at Campus Copy Center)
- your instrument
- 3 ring binder with pockets

**Schedule**

**August**

20- Introduction-What can we practice and study to become better improvisers? Communicating using musical gestures...Discuss ways to refine/adjust gestures so that they fit the context of the music. Introduce rhythmic concepts that will be addressed during the course of the semester...Low-stress diagnostic quiz

25-"Welcome Back" Jam session.... "Storytelling" assignment due...present to class

27-Brief Theory review

**September**

1- Discuss major and minor scales and diatonic triads/7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/ 11<sup>th</sup>/and 13<sup>th</sup> chords...Using modes of the major, harmonic, and melodic minor scale as tools in the process of adjusting melodic ideas to fit harmonic context-also examine use of chord tones, extensions, related scales and non-harmonic tones..

3-Improvising on modal tunes, Impressions, Effendi, others ...discuss diminished, pentatonic, other scales

8-Discuss transcription assignments.....analytical techniques....identify/list common improvisational devices

10- Discuss techniques for developing practice exercises from transcriptions  
15- Blues-discuss harmonic variations  
17-Blues in 12 keys....learning heads **by ear**...SKJ, Sonnymoon for Two, etc.  
22-Guest Lecturer-TBA  
24-Guest Lecturer-TBA

**29-Performance and discussion of student transcriptions**

**October**

**1-Performance and discussion of student transcriptions**

6-Blues in 12... different meters, alternative blues forms  
8-Minor blues-"Mr.P.C., Equinox... harmonic variations, helpful scales...  
13-"I Got Rhythm" tunes, Lester Leaps In, Ow, Oleo, Anthropology, etc. Understanding and hearing harmonic variations of "Rhythm" changes  
20-Using the "turnaround scale"...play "Rhythm" tunes...discuss getting from I to ii and from ii back to I...many ways....  
22-"Inside" turnarounds vs. harmonic generalization, comparing Charlie Parker and Lester Young solos on "Rhythm"...examine turnaround variations...more alternative cadential structures  
27-Dom. 7 and diminished 7 chord cycles in blues and "Rhythm" tunes...extending harmony through linear chromaticism, side-slipping, chord substitution...  
29-Guest Lecturer-TBA

**November**

**3-Performance and discussion of student transcriptions**

**5-Performance and discussion of student transcriptions**

10-"Rhythm" tunes in various keys.....rhythmic flexibility ..Intro to neighbor tempos/metric modulation...12/8, 6/4, 4/4, 3/2 relationships  
12-"Scrapple from the Apple" and "All God's Chillun Got Rhythm"-compare/contrast with "Rhythm" changes...discuss chord substitutions....continue neighbor tempo discussion/exercises  
17- Discuss turnarounds in minor keys....play "Autumn Leaves"...discuss and play "Modulated Milton"  
19-Play "Autumn Leaves" in various keys...discuss chord substitutions.....neighbor tempo practice ...discuss the "Neighbor Blues"  
24- Play "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise"....minor key turnaround variations... play "Neighbor Blues" parts 1, 2, and 3. Discuss upper-structure interpretations of minor key cadences

**December**

**1-Performance and discussion of student transcriptions**

**3-Performance and discussion of student transcriptions**

**Friday, December 4th at Noon -Deadline for submitting Improvisation Notebook**

*There will be regular aural and rhythmic skills exercises throughout the semester*

## **Grading and Attendance Policy**

Each student will be required to:

### **1) Complete three transcription projects**

Each of these projects will be worth 100 points, or 20% of the final grade and will be evaluated as follows:

- \*Performance-40 points (difficulty and length will be considered)
- \*Memorization-10 points
- \*Accuracy and legibility of notated transcription-15 points
- \*Quality of annotations-15 points
- \*Concept and execution of exercises derived from transcription-20 points

**PLEASE NOTE: THE TRANSCRIPTION PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATES**

**2) Create a notebook** that is to contain class notes, assignments, annotated transcriptions, and practice exercises derived from the transcriptions and the material that has been discussed in class. It is the instructor's hope that this notebook will be a valuable resource for present and future studies. The notebook will be worth 50 points, or 10% of the final grade. The student is encouraged to submit the notebook to the instructor for regular evaluations before the final grade is assigned.

### **3) Participate in class activities**

The remaining 150 points, or 30% of the final grade will be based on attendance (please examine the attendance policy below) and class participation (preparation of the studied material, contributing to class discussions, completing assignments, etc.)

## **Attendance Policy**

The instructor reserves the right to deduct **ten "class participation" points** for **each** unexcused absence. Students not in class by ten minutes after the beginning of class will be considered absent.

### **GRADING SUMMARY**

60%...3 transcriptions-100 points each=300 points  
10%...Improvisation Notebook-50 points  
30%...Class participation-150 points  
500 total points

A...500-450 points  
B...449-400  
C...399-350  
D...349-300  
F...below 300

Please contact the instructor by email [epeterse@uno.edu](mailto:epeterse@uno.edu) or by cell phone (985-246-9077)

### **Statement on Academic Integrity**

*Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.*

### **Disability Statement**

*It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.*

### **Important Dates:**

August 18: Tuesday (11:59PM) - Last date of schedule adjustment period (**without** fee penalty)

August 25: Tuesday (11:59PM) - Last date of schedule adjustment period (with fee penalty)

Final date to drop with 100% refund

September 8: final date to drop course and not have course recorded

September 9: automatic "W" will be recorded for all courses dropped (\$50 fee per drop)

September 16: final date to withdraw/resign for 50% refund

October 14: (11:59PM) - Final date for dropping courses or resigning from the University