

Fall 2015

## MUS 4705

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*University of New Orleans*

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# Music 4705 - Advanced Jazz Improvisation – Fall 2015

## Syllabus: Class Policies

Tuesday & Thursday - 11 am to 12:15 pm Room 103 PAC

Brian Seeger

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108E PAC Office Hours – As Posted

The purpose of this class is to help the students to become better musicians and educators through the development of:

- 1) an understanding of a variety of musical forms through the study, memorization, and performance of tunes
- 2) a knowledge of improvisational techniques through the transcription, analysis, and performance of the recorded solos
- 3) an awareness of important theoretical concepts that can be used to expand the improviser's melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic choices
- 4) aural and rhythmic skills
- 5) insight into creating and sustaining a personal environment for artistic and personal growth
- 6) a personal approach to the teaching and dissemination of musical ideas to others

### **Grading**

Each student will be required to:

#### **1) Complete 3 transcription projects,**

Each of the transcriptions will be graded as Exemplary, Satisfactory, and Unsatisfactory. An Exemplary grade will be given to a transcription that is complete, memorized, performed at a high level, annotated well, has practice exercises if required, is delivered and performed by the due date, and reflects approximately 30 to 40 hours of practice and study. More advanced students should choose more difficult projects which will take them 30 to 40 hours to finish completely. A satisfactory grade will be given to a project that is complete, but demonstrates no special effort on the student's behalf, or, to the project that meets the criteria for an Exemplary grade but was turned in late. An Unsatisfactory grade will be given to a transcription that is incomplete, poorly performed, shows no real effort or otherwise demonstrates a lack of integrity, or to a project that meets the criteria for a Satisfactory grade, but was turned in late.

### **ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN LATE ARE PENALIZED**

(SEE SYLLABUS: OVERVIEW FOR DATES)

**2) Complete homework assignments and ear training exercises.** Each assignment will be given a grade of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. Unsatisfactory grades in 20% or more of graded assignments will negatively affect the student's final grade up to one letter.

**3) Attend class regularly.** Students are allowed 2 absences a semester. Due dates will not be changed to accommodate a student's absence. Each absence after 2 will lower the student's final grade by 1/4 of a letter grade. If you expect to have an insurmountable conflict that will preclude your attendance in class, it is in your best interest to inform the instructor of your personal situation well before the class you will

miss. Students not in class by ten minutes after the beginning of class may be considered absent.

#### **4) Participate in class activities and quizzes.**

Overall class participation (preparation of the studied material, contributing to class discussions, completing assignments, performance on ear training evaluations, etc.) will be assigned a final evaluation of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. An Unsatisfactory grade in this area will negatively affect a student's final grade up to one letter grade.

### **GRADING SUMMARY**

All assignments not turned in by the due date will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory.

A = 3 Exemplary Transcriptions, with no Unsatisfactory grades in the areas above, and 2 or fewer absences.

B = No Unsatisfactory Transcriptions and at least 1 Exemplary Transcription, with no Unsatisfactory grades in the areas above, and 2 or fewer absences.

C = 3 Satisfactory Transcriptions, with no Unsatisfactory grades in the areas above, and 2 or fewer absences.

D = 1 Unsatisfactory Transcriptions, with no Unsatisfactory grades in the areas above, and 2 or fewer absences.

F = 2 Unsatisfactory Transcriptions

### **Other Miscellaneous Notes**

Students are advised that this class requires approximately 8-12 hours of work outside of the classroom each week, and that they should adjust their agendas accordingly. The preferred methods of contacting the instructor, from most effective to least effective, are: in person at school, email, cell phone, office phone, in person somewhere other than school. Texting the instructor is generally unacceptable.

### **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

*\*Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B sessions, and for items not listed here:  
<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>*

### **Fall Semester Holidays**

Labor Day 09/07/2015

Mid-semester break 10/15-10/16/2015

Thanksgiving 11/26-11/27/2015

## **Withdrawal Policy**

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**

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.

## **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/>.

# Music 4705 - Advanced Jazz Improvisation – Fall 2015

## Syllabus: Class Overview

Tuesday & Thursday - 11 am to 12:15 pm Room 103 PAC

Brian Seeger

(646) 283-3987 (504) 280-7470 bseeger1@uno.edu

108E PAC Office Hours - Tu & Th 1-3 W 12-2

### August

20 - Introduction - Overview. Discussion of various class objectives. Discussion of Transcription projects.

25 - Eartraining: Conceptions I

27 - About Time: the Continuum of Swing, Quintuplets, Accents and Time.

### September

1 - Eartraining: Conceptions II

3 - About Time: the Continuum of Swing, Quintuplets, Accents and Time continued

8 - Eartraining: notes against a harmonic background, harmonic intervals, song of the root motions.

10 - the Honesty Metronome

15 - Eartraining: notes against a harmonic background, 2nds, song of the root motions.

17 - Phrasing exercises from Hal Crook. Finale Crash Course if needed

**22 - Discussion and performance of student transcription #1, Walking Bass and Ride Cymbal.**

**24 - Transcriptions continued.**

29 - Eartraining: notes against a harmonic background, 2nds, song of the root motions

### October

1 - Melodic Performance and Performing Melodically. Compendium of articulative devices

6 - Eartraining: notes against a harmonic background, 2nds, song of the root motions

8 - Melodic Performance and Performing Melodically. Using articulative devices.

13 - Eartraining

15 - MID-SEMESTER BREAK: No Class

20 - Special Guest Lecturer: TBA

22 - Special Guest Lecturer: TBA

27 - A briefing on Theory. Decoding slash chords.

29 - Playing tunes with slash chords

### November

**3 - Discussion and performance of student transcription #2. Cannonball.**

## **5 - Transcriptions Continued**

10 - Special Guest Lecturer: the Amazing Dan Loomis

12 - Special Guest Lecturer: the Amazing Dan Loomis

17 - Special Guest Lecturer: the Amazing Dan Loomis

19 - Special Guest Lecturer: the Amazing Dan Loomis

## **24 - Ear Training Marathon & Evaluation**

27 - THANKSGIVING BREAK - No Class

## **December**

**1 - Discussion and performance of student transcription #3. Wayne Shorter.**

**3 - Transcriptions Continued**

Music 4705  
Advanced Jazz Improvisation – Fall 2015  
Syllabus: Major Project Specifications

**Three Transcriptions**

- Refer to the handout “The Perfect Transcription” for additional details about what constitutes a great transcription presentation
  - All transcriptions done in Finale or similar notation program. Annotations can be done by hand on the printouts.
  - Late transcriptions will receive a reduced grade. **YOU CANNOT EARN A GRADE OF A IN THIS CLASS IF ANY OF YOUR TRANSCRIPTIONS ARE LATE.**
  - No incompletes
- 
- **Transcription #1: Due on September 22nd.** 2 choruses of walking bass, predominantly quarter notes, from some great bass player with noteworthy time, on a 32 bar standard with relatively involved chord changes AND 1 chorus (32 bars) of the ride cymbal accompanying said bass part. Practice playing along with the ride cymbal using a stick on a cymbal and also using one note, or scales, on your instrument, or - be creative. Pay in depth attention to the swing feel and to the intensity of each beat. You must memorize this - that is one of the main points, internalizing the time feel!!
  - **Transcription #2: Due on November 3rd.** A Sonny Rollins solo. Fully annotated & memorized. Give special emphasis to time feel and especially articulations. Produce two practice examples that get at something which is *particularly* Sonny, and, practice them before you give your presentation. That means start working on this sooner as opposed to later. Drummers - translate the solo into a drum solo, or perform the solo on a melodic instrument.
  - **Transcription #3: Due on December 1st.** Clifford Brown with Strings, Tom Harrell ballad or Kenny Wheeler. Fully annotated & memorized. Produce two practice examples that get at something which is *particularly* to the artist you transcribed, and, practice them before you give your presentation. This presentation should elicit “Wows” from your peers. It should be so happening you impress yourself. Drummers - translate the solo into a drum solo, or perform the solo on a melodic instrument.