

Fall 2015

MUS 4902

Victor Atkins
University of New Orleans

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University Jazz Band Syllabus Fall 2015

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed for small to large jazz ensembles. Repertoire from early New Orleans to present, including newly composed or arranged works by the band members, will be rehearsed weekly for public performance.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of jazz styles.
2. Display proficiency improvising over a range of harmonic landscapes.
3. Perform in different meters and grooves.
4. Sight-read better.
5. Rehearse an ensemble.
6. Act professional and respectful on gigs, in recording sessions, and at rehearsals.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

This is a class that is structured like a band. Students are at once classmates and band mates. It is imperative that band members make all rehearsals and gigs. Please bring your instrument to every class, actively participate in all rehearsals, learn and contribute to the repertoire, practice your parts and solo changes, and be available for mandatory gigs.

There are required performances at the Cove as part of the Jazz at the Sandbar concert series on Wednesday nights in October and November. Please make arrangements to attend all of the Sandbar series concerts, but if you already have a conflict, please let me know now before we schedule the guest artists. There may be other professional opportunities in which students are encouraged to participate.

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 projects and communicating.

When bringing charts to rehearsal, please bring enough parts for every member of the band. Consider transposition and rhythm section parts written or articulated, and be prepared to rehearse the band.

GRADING and ATTENDANCE POLICY

Grading is based on participation, preparation, and improvement.

1. An "A" grade requires perfect attendance.
2. Participation includes, but is not limited to, attendance. **An unexcused absence could result in the students' final grade being lowered by one full letter grade.**
3. Preparation: Students are required to practice their parts and contribute compositions and arrangements

4. Improvement: Students must show mastery of the material covered in class through growth and development.

Grading Summary

Participation = 50%

Preparation = 30%

Improvement = 20%

Grades

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

0%-59% = F

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY

This is not a lecture class where student participation may be less important. **This is a band.** Please come to class on time and be ready to rehearse by 10 minutes after the start of class.

Students are allowed up to **two unexcused absences** before being penalized. With each additional absence, I reserve the right to lower the final attendance grade by one letter grade.

Excused absences must be handled in advance so as to secure a suitable substitute. In the case of a last-minute emergency, please contact me directly or the Department of Music by phone. Failure to contact me prior to a missed rehearsal will be considered an unexcused absence.

Being **tardy three times counts as one absence.**

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 it also affects your classmates' ability to learn. Students will be asked to give feedback as part of the rehearsal process and they in turn will receive feedback. Respectful and constructive criticism is expected. 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 unless it is class oriented. If you must communicate with someone outside of class, please excuse yourself from the classroom.

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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 are encouraged to contact their instructors and/or the Office of Disability Services to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

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 Begin08/19/2015

Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,

or withdraw with 100% refund..... 08/25/2015

Last day to apply for December commencement09/25/2015

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

Commencement12/18/2015

Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day09/07/2015

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>