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Fall 2015

MUS 5807

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University of New Orleans

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MUS 5807
MW 11:00-12:15
PAC 103

Jazz Arranging and Composition Syllabus

Fall 2015

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

To study the creative processes and technical methods of composing, arranging, and orchestrating jazz music.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Compose in a variety of jazz composition styles.
2. Arrange music for small to large jazz ensembles.
3. Orchestrate for jazz instrumentation.
4. Identify methods and styles of major jazz composers and arrangers.
5. Use a variety of analytical methods to explore and understand music scores.
6. Recognize different jazz song forms and compose within the constructs.
7. Develop melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic ideas for composition and arranging.
8. Utilize an array of voicing techniques.
9. Rehearse a jazz ensemble.
10. Create a score reduction from a segment of a big band arrangement, analyze it, expound upon it, and present it to class in a 20-minute lecture. (*see Project 3*)

MATERIALS

1. *Modern Jazz Voicings: Arranging for Small and Medium Ensembles*
   Authors: Ken Pullig and Ted Pease
   Publisher: Berklee Press
   ISBN-10: 0634014439
   http://www.tedpease.com
2. **Staff paper, pencils, and eraser must be brought to every class**
3. Notation software (optional but preferred)
4. Access to Moodle and UNO email.

GENERAL POLICIES

Use only **notation software** or **pencil** on all assignments and tests. **Projects should be done using notation software**. If you do not have notation software, computers in the MIDI Lab (PAC 342) and Piano Lab (PAC 216) are equipped with Finale and Sibelius. Notation software is essential to the professional composer/arranger. We will spend some time in the Keyboard Lab working with Finale.

Assignments and projects are to be turned in two ways: (1) at the beginning of class on the due date; and (2) by emailing it me as a Finale 2012 or PDF file on the due date. In some cases I may ask students to make additional copies for class.

One letter grade may be dropped for every day an assignment, project, or test is late.

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.

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.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. Students are responsible for homework, tests and materials, including handouts, assignments, and projects.

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

Please come to class on time. If you are **tardy three times it counts as an absence**.

GRADING POLICY

Students must show a working knowledge of melodic and harmonic considerations of jazz composition, arranging, and orchestration. This requires an understanding of the keys and ranges of instruments, harmonization techniques, notation, score layout, and rehearsal practices.

		Grades
Assignments	10%	90%-100% = A
Projects (3)	60%	80%-89% = B
Tests (2)	10%	70%-79% = C
Attendance & Participation	20%	60%-69% = D
TOTAL	100%	0%-59% = F

ASSIGNMENTS (10%)

Assignments include reading, listening, research, composing, and arranging exercises designed to facilitate the assimilation of class material into professional practice. Students will be required to produce homework assignments on a professional level.

PROJECTS (60%)

Students are required to use notation software to create class projects. Concert scores and transposed parts are required for class performance and peer review.

Project 1: Midterm Arrangement. Scores are due **Wednesday, September 30th**. Parts are due Monday, October 5th for performance. [30%]

Project 2: Final Arrangement. Scores are due **Wednesday, November 18th**. Parts are due Monday, November 23rd for performance. [40%]

Project 3: Score Reduction. Create a score reduction from a selection of a big band chart and present it to the class. The class presentation would be on **Monday, October 26th**. I will work with you on this. We will talk about it early in the semester. I will provide instruction and advice. [30%]

TESTS (10%)

There will be **two tests** to assess student understanding of class material. The lowest grade will be dropped.

EXTRA CREDIT

Please see me if you need to increase your grade average. There are a number of possibilities.

PARTICIPATION (20%)

Participation includes, but is not limited to, class discussions, projects, and performances.

Students are required to participate in class performances. If you are scheduled to perform, please bring your instrument and accessories. If you cannot make class, you must send a sub. Failure to do so could wreck the hard work of students having projects performed that day and would have a negative impact on your final grade. All performance dates will be included on the Class Schedule.

Performance Dates: 8/26, 10/5, 10/6, 11/23, 11/25, 11/30, 12/2

CLASSROM 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. You will be asked to give feedback to your classmates on their progress. 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. If you must communicate with someone outside of class, please excuse yourself from the classroom.

SEMESTER OUTLINE – This is a topical outline and subject to change. A class schedule will be created based on the diagnostic test and published on Moodle.

Week 1: Diagnostic Exam – not graded
Week 2: Instrument characteristics and ranges
Week 3: Soli techniques
Week 4: Spread voicings
Week 5: Densities
Week 6: Guest lecturer
Week 7: Score layout and parts writing
Week 8: Test 1 - Soli Techniques and Instrumental Characteristics
Week 9: Midterm Projects
Week 10: Guest lecturer
Week 11: Analysis
Week 12: Score reduction
Week 13: Guest lecturer
Week 14: Test 2 – Reduction Exercises
Week 15: Big band
Week 16: Final Projects

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.

SUGGESTED TEXTS

Jazz Composition: Theory and Practice
Author: Ted Pease
Publisher: Berklee Press (August 1, 2003)
ISBN-10: 0876390017

Arranging for Large Jazz Ensemble
Author: Dick Lowell and Ken Pullig
Publisher: Berklee Press (February 1, 2003)
ISBN-10: 0634036564

Inside the Score
Author: Rayburn Wright
Publisher: Kendor Music (May 1982)
ISBN-10: 9991739661

A Linear Approach
Author: Bill Dobbins
Publisher: Advance Music (June 1986)
ISBN-10: 3892210063

Jazz Arranging Techniques
Author: Gary Lindsay
Publisher: Staff Art Publishing (2005)
ISBN-10: 0976027305

The Complete Arranger
Author: Sammy Nestico
Publisher: Fenwood Music Co. Inc.; Revised edition (June 1, 2007)
ISBN-10: 1424331218

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