

## COURSE OUTLINE

<b>TERM:</b> Spring 2016	<b>COURSE NO:</b> JAZZ 283
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>COURSE NAME:</b> Jazz Improvisation IV
<b>OFFICE:</b> <b>LOCAL: E-MAIL:</b>	<b>SECTIONS:</b> <b>COURSE CREDITS:</b> 1.5

**COURSE FORMAT:** 2 lecture hours and 2 instructor-led lab hours per week for 15 weeks.

**PREREQUISITE:** JAZZ 282 with grade of C- or higher

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *The Capilano University Jazz Studies Program seeks to foster students' comprehensive abilities in jazz performance and composition within the context of an enriched liberal arts education. Our goal is to develop musicians who understand and value the rich history and traditions of jazz, who will be prepared to contribute to the evolution and growth of the art form in the future, and who will be equipped to engage creatively with current trends in music.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will learn techniques for melodic and rhythmic improvisation and will apply them to 'rhythm changes', contrafacts, modal compositions, and other selections from the canonical repertoire. Students will analyze and explain their own creative process by sharing their work with other students in the class on a regular basis.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- improvise melodies on standard chord progressions demonstrating a clear knowledge and control of voice leading and melodic and rhythmic conventions of jazz vocabulary from the period 1945-1960;
- demonstrate the ability to improvise and compose melodic lines within various styles with attention to the conventions of rhythmic and melodic development inherent in those styles;
- analyze and transcribe improvised solos from the recorded canon
- demonstrate through performance a theoretical understanding of melodic and rhythmic relationships to harmonic and formal structures;
- research historical performance practices appropriate to jazz improvisation;
- analyze, comprehend, and interact with the musical contributions of others in a performance context;
- communicate original creative work and research on improvisation through performance and multi-media presentation to their peers; demonstrate the ability to spontaneously apply techniques and concepts from lectures and labs to new or unfamiliar repertoire;
- demonstrate attention to detail and show evidence of the personal study habits and work ethic critical for professional success.

**TEXT:** Materials provided by instructor.  
Selected recordings from the Capilano University library.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

This course comprises both a lab and lecture component. During the lecture component of the course, a wide variety of techniques and methods for improvising will be explored, demonstrated, and discussed. In the lab component of the course, students will apply these techniques and methods to selections from the jazz repertoire, with an emphasis on ‘rhythm changes, modal tunes, and standards with relatively simple diatonic structures. Regular homework assignments will be a major part of the course and will include transcription of improvisations in the recorded canon, preparation of ‘composed’ solos and preparation of technical exercises involving chord scales, guide tone lines, melodic gradients, and arpeggios.

Week	Topic
1-5	Rhythm Changes. Transcription #1 due in week 3.
6-8	Modal playing. Transcription #2 due in week 7. Composed solo #1 due in week 7.
9-10	Chord/scale approaches to music with unconventional harmonies: Kenny Wheeler, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson. Composed solo #2 due in week 9.
11-12	<i>Cherokee</i> : combining chord/scale and voice leading approaches
13	Preparation and review for exam.
14-15	Performance exam during final exam period.

**EVALUATION PROFILE:** Grading procedures in this course will include regular evaluation of homework assignments, performance based exams, prepared solos, and transcriptions.

Transcription and Performance (2 x 10%) .....	20%
Composed Solos (2 x 15% each) .....	30%
Final Performance Exam .....	25%
Homework (5 x 5%) .....	25%
<b>TOTAL..</b> .....	<b>100%</b>

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Note that use of a computer notation program is required for all written assignments. Transcriptions and compositions will be shared with other students through web-based cloud storage.

1. Weekly homework assignments which may include: ‘heads’ for tunes, transposing melodic licks or motives through 12 keys, rhythmic exercises, guide tone lines, melodic gradients, chord scales and arpeggios. Evaluation of homework assignments will take place during lab component.
2. Transcriptions: the instructor will provide a list of appropriate recordings from which the student will select solos for transcription. The transcriptions must be accurate and must be clearly and legibly notated. The student is responsible for learning to play the transcribed solo and this will be a substantial part of the transcription grade. Students should be prepared to present their transcription to the class.
3. Two Composed Solos: the student will prepare two composed solos and perform them. The student will provide a legible copy of the solos to the instructor prior to the performance. One will be a solo on ‘rhythm changes’ and the other will be on a modal tune selected by the instructor.

4. Final Performance Exam: The student will improvise two choruses on 'rhythm changes' and "Cherokee" plus one other selection from the semester's repertoire. Minimum tempos for performance will be established by the instructor.
5. Note that drummers will be expected to use piano, voice, vibraphone or other pitched instrument for some assignments while others (including some transcriptions) will be played on the drum kit.

**GRADING PROFILE:**

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 77-79%	C+ = 67-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B = 73-76%	C = 63-66%	F = 0-49%
A- = 80-84%	B- = 70-72%	C- = 60-62%	

**OPERATIONAL DETAILS:**

***University Policies:***

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. Copies of these and other policies are available on the University website.

***"I" Grades:***

"I" grades will be given only if a doctor's certificate of illness is provided. In addition, the student concerned must submit a *written request* for approval to the instructor prior to the last regular class in the course.

***English Usage:***

Written English must be equivalent to the Capilano University English 100 standards.

***Emergency Procedures:***

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the emergency procedures on the wall of the classroom.