MUS 1001-001
JAZZ IMPROVISATION COURSE SYLLABUS
Instructor-Dr. Chris A. Beaty
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Spring 2013
Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:50pm
Music Building Rm 156
Office (Rm 218) hours-as posted and by appointment

Objectives(SLO)/General Areas of Study:
To increase the student’s overall abilities, creativity and musicianship in the area of jazz improvisation through increased knowledge of chord/scale relationships, theory/harmony, transcriptions and listening. Note: Jazz Listening is a must in order to learn the vocabulary and the traditions of the art form and must not be overlooked in this course!

Scales/ Patterns:
Diatonic scales and patterns will be reviewed in this course and are regarded as beginning building blocks for improvisation but other forms of scales, modes and patterns including: dorian, phrygian, lydian, mixolydian, locrian, whole tone, bebop and diminished will also be introduced. Various arpeggio and jazz pattern/lick studies will also be included under scales/patterns.

Attendance:
Since most class meetings will be devoted to performance and listening/theory analysis attendance is important and mandatory. I reserve the right to drop any student from the class who has been absent or tardy to more than four class meetings. Attendance outside of class time is required at the Jazz Master Class (listed below) and at two live jazz concerts this semester.

Grading:
Grading in class assignments and activities will constitute 40% of your final grade. Major factors to be considered will be: attendance, preparation, progress, and performance. 20% of your grade will be from your listening journals (to be turned in every two weeks between week three and midterm week). 20% from a midterm written/playing exam. 20% from a final exam. Note: The final exam will be performance based including performing your transcription.

Listening Journals:
All students are required to keep a listening log and write objectively and subjectively on two entries per day (5 days a week) between the second week of class and midterm week. These listening experiences can come from live performances, YouTube, audio recordings, radio broadcasts or other sources. Please list date, title and performer(s) (if/when possible) for all entries! Note: They do not have to be typed unless I cannot read your handwriting.

Improvisation Lab:
An improvisation lab time will be from 7-8pm on Monday evenings for you to practice you class assignments as well as learning new tunes. Please take advantage of this opportunity! It will improve your skills as a performer and educator. Although this is not a course requirement you can add 3% points to your final grade by attending 4 or more sessions.
Texts & Materials:
ALL Students will be required to have a metronome for technical repetition and rhythmic improvement. Students will also be expected to purchase a copy of Vol. 54 (Maiden Voyage) from the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Play-A-Long series (www.jazzbooks.com) and have some audio capacity in which to practice with this volume. Although we will not begin the course with a “textbook” it may be determined by the instructor at a later date that a textbook will increase knowledge in certain areas and a text may need to be purchased.

Mission Statement:
The Music Department of Texas A&M University – Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Statement:
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303 A/D
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Note: Final project will include transcribing a jazz solo (or at least most of a solo) and play along with the recording.
Important Jazz dates: TAMUC Jazz Concert dates this semester are March 1st (Swing into Spring) and April 22nd (7:30pm in Finney Concert Hall).