

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus
MUSI 2871 Fundamentals of Improvisation II

Credit Hours: 1

Lecture Hours: 1

Laboratory Hours: 1

Prerequisite: MUSI 2861 Fundamentals of Improvisation I

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Reviews scales, modes, chords, and improvised melodies in jazz, pop, and rock music taught in MUSI 2861. Advanced improvisational techniques and materials are addressed. Ability to read music is required.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Review jazz elements and theory from MUSI 2861 Fundamentals of Improvisation I.
2. Perform, dictate and aurally recognize advanced jazz scales and chords.
3. Demonstrate through discussion, writing and problem-solving a knowledge of song forms, harmonic functions and scale/mode applications.
4. Transcribe and analyze an improvised jazz solo from a recorded source.
5. Compose and analyze a jazz tune.
6. Compare stylistic characteristics of two jazz artists.
7. Listen to jazz recordings and aurally recognize form and improvisational devices.
8. Discuss and provide examples of how to market your skills as a professional musician, preparing for an audition, preparation and performance considerations for gigs, and other important aspects of being a successful professional musician.

B. University Learning Outcomes

MUSI 2871 Fundamentals of Improvisation II enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking**

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of musical performance.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of a musical performance.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes whether in musical research, presentation, or performance.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Jazz scales/modes
- B. Jazz chord construction
- C. Contemporary chord symbols
- D. Harmonic progressions
- E. Digital patterns and licks
- F. Aural recognition
- G. Terminology
- H. Analysis and professional musicianship