

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

MUSR 1201/3201 Jazz Lab Ensemble

Credit Hours: 1 Lecture Hours: 0 Lab. or Other Type of Hours: 2 (part.)

Prerequisite: Consent of director

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A training ground for students to learn basic techniques in jazz performance. Musical selections, exercises, and other materials are used in rehearsal as teaching tools. Public performance scheduling is contingent upon personnel and levels of ability. May be repeated for a total of four hours.

B. Additional Course Description

Students perform jazz literature, stylistic exercises, and other repertoire designed to teach jazz performance techniques. Ear training via listening to jazz recordings and “teaching” materials is an essential part of the course. Lecture-discussion sessions are also incorporated into the various course activities.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Perform music in the various jazz styles, including swing, blues, Latin, funk, and ballads.
2. Accurately interpret and perform jazz articulations in written music.
3. Improvise using the blues scale in the Keys of Bb, C, F, and G concert.
4. Improvise using the major and minor pentatonic scales in the major keys listed above and their relative minor keys.
5. Describe the functions of each of the instruments and sections within a jazz ensemble.
6. Identify and understand chord symbols and improvise effectively while reading chord changes.

7. Describe various desired sound concepts on each instrument as they relate to the performance of jazz music.
8. Describe a jazz performance in terms of style, form, improvisational tools, and other elements peculiar to jazz.
9. Aurally recognize and identify the blues scale, major and minor pentatonic scales, a blues progression, and basic chord qualities.
10. Accurately perform the tunes in the text.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course 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. This course is designed as a rehearsal lab. Other activities and materials will include the following:
 1. Ear training tapes and exercises
 2. Jazz tunes from our library
 3. Play-along records from our library (for improvisation purposes).
- B. The ensemble may or may not perform publicly. This will be contingent upon instrumentation and levels of ability within the ensemble. Public performance is not the primary purpose of the ensemble, but if the group does perform, it will most likely do so in conjunction with another UA Fort Smith ensemble.