



**MERCER**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Number**  
**MUS223**

**Course Title**  
**Jazz Keyboard Harmony and  
Improvisation**

**Credits**  
**1**

**Hours:**  
**Lecture/Lab/Other**  
**2 lab**

**Co- or Pre-requisite**  
**MUS221 or equivalent knowledge**

**Implementation**  
**Semester & Year**  
**Spring 2022**

### **Catalog description:**

An introductory course designed to give students the fundamentals of jazz harmony, chord progressions, scales, and tools for improvisation at the keyboard.

**General Education Category:**  
Not GenEd

**Course coordinator:**  
Scott Hornick, 609-570-3716, hornicks@mccc.edu

### **Required texts & Other materials:**

Haerle, Dan, Jazz Improvisation for Keyboard Players (complete edition)  
Boyd, Bill, Jazz Chord Voicing for Keyboard

### **Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

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

1. Use various non-diatonic scales that are appropriate for jazz improvisation. [Supports ILGs #2,6,10,11; PLOs #1,2,3,7]
2. Demonstrate technical proficiencies through studies emphasizing syncopation and different rhythmic feels. [Supports ILG #2,6,10,11; PLOs #1,2,3,7]
3. Identify and perform various chord from lead sheets. [Supports ILGs #2,6,10,11; PLOs #1,2,3,4,7]
4. Demonstrate an ability to use their left hand in various manners to support the structure and form of different songs. [Supports ILGs #2,6,10,11; PLOs #1,2,3,5,7]
5. Demonstrate the ability to properly voice-lead through a series of chord progressions. [Supports ILGs #2,6,10,11; PLOs #1,2,3,5,7]
6. Produce melodies in their right hands as improvisations over chord progressions being voiced in their left hand. [Supports ILGs #2,6,10,11; PLOs #1,2,3,5,7]

## **Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):**

**Institutional Learning Goal 2. Mathematics.** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.

**Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities.** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

**Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy:** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

**Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking:** Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

## **Program Learning Outcomes for Music AS Program (PLO)**

1. Demonstrate a professional level of fluency in both the reading and writing of musical notation.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the theoretical principles that underlie all the primary genres of music of Western culture, including scale and chord construction; the tonal system of keys and chord relationships; harmonic analysis; figured bass; the principles and procedures of four-part writing; and modulation.
3. Analyze excerpts of musical compositions, working from a printed score, on the levels of harmony, rhythm, melodic contour, phrase structure, and large-scale formal structure.
4. Notate short melodic fragments of two to four measures in length upon hearing them performed.
5. Sing at sight melodies of intermediate difficulty in both major and minor keys.
  
7. Demonstrate a level of proficiency at the piano keyboard suitable for teaching, arranging, composing, and analyzing music.

## **Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:**

### **Unit I        **[Scales and Chord Tones]** [Supports Course SLOs #1,2,3,6]**

#### **Learning Objectives**

***The student will be able to:***

- Identify and perform all major and minor scales
- Identify and perform all major and minor scale modes.
- Identify and perform chord tones from all inversions.
- Construct melodies using scale and chord tones.

### **Unit II        **[Voicing Chords in the Left Hand]** [Supports Course SLOs #1,3,4,5]**

#### **Learning Objectives**

***The student will be able to:***

- Use numerous voicings for root position chords.
- Use numerous voicings for root position seventh chords.
- Demonstrate knowledge of A and B chord forms.
- Demonstrate their ability to utilize various rhythmic accompaniments in their left hand.

### **Unit III        **[Solo Construction]** [Supports Course SLOs #1,2,3,4,5,6]**

#### **Learning Objectives**

***The student will be able to:***

- Produce single note linear solos over a given chord progression.
- Perform octave and double octave unison solo ideas.
- Demonstrate their ability to perform chordal style solos.

**Unit IV** [Harmony] [Supports Course SLOs #1,2,3,4,5,6]

**Learning Objectives**

***The student will be able to:***

- Show their ability understand and interpret different harmonic progressions.
- Use skills to cycle through a chord progression in 5ths.
- Interpret how to create melodies and solo over chromatic chord progressions.

**Evaluation of student learning:** [Evaluates SLOs # 1,2,3,4,5,6]

<b>Evaluation Tools</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Assignments	25%
Tests – Performance and Written	20%
Attendance	15%
Transcription Project	20%
Final Exam and Performance	20%
Total	100%