



Arts and Communication Division

Course Outline

MUS 223
Course Number

Jazz Keyboard Harmony & Improvisation
Course Title

1
Credits

0
Lecture

2
Laboratory Hours

16 weeks
Length of semester

Catalog Description:

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

Text: Jazz Improvisation for Keyboard Players (complete edition)
by Dan Haerle
Jazz Chord Voicing for Keyboard by Bill Boyd

Prerequisite: MUS 221 Piano III, or equivalent

Corequisite: None

Coordinator: James Kelly
Ext. 3716

Latest Review: Spring 2005

A. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be expected to learn and use various non-diatonic scales that are appropriate for jazz improvisation.
2. Students will be expected to study 4 - 6 technical exercises emphasizing syncopation and rhythmic feel.
3. Students will be expected to read and interpret chord charts.
4. Students will be expected to use the Left Hand in different jazz style accompaniments and rhythmic treatments.
5. Students will be expected to use proper voice leading through a series of chord progressions.
6. Students will be expected to create their own melodies and learn pianistic approaches to soloing in the Right Hand.

B. TOPICAL OUTLINE

Week

1. Creating melodies using chord tones
2. Exploring non-diatonic scales and modes.
3. Improvising melodies with scale tones.
4. Creating melodies using scale tones and chord tones.
5. Reading chord charts.
6. Using the Left Hand: voicing chords.
7. “A” Form and “B” Form chords
8. Styles of Left Hand accompaniment.
9. Rhythmic treatment of the Left Hand.
10. Pianistic Approaches to Soloing (single note linear solo)
11. Octave or Double Octave Unisons.
12. The Chord Style Solo
13. Chord Progressions.
14. Cycling Progressions of 5th’s
15. Chromatic Progressions.
16. Final Evaluation