



## COURSE OUTLINE

**MUS 152**  
Course Number

**Jazz Improvisation II – Modal**  
Course title

**2**  
Credits

**1 lecture/2 lab**  
Hours

**Catalog description:**

An introductory level course designed to acquaint the student with the conceptual and practical rudiments of the jazz language focusing on two modes, Ionian and Dorian, as they apply to the major and minor family of chords, respectively. An emphasis on Latino idioms and rhythms will also characterize the course.

**Prerequisites:** The ability to play an instrument and to read musical notation.

**Corequisites:** None

**Required texts/other materials:**

N/A

**Last revised:** Fall 2021

**Course coordinator:** Scott Hornick, Associate Professor of Music – CM 149; (609) 570-3716;  
*hornicks@mccc.edu*

## **A. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Student will learn the Ionian and Dorian modes on a variety of pitch levels. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D and F)*
2. Student will learn the chordal structures of the major and minor in their extended forms of 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> their relationship to each of the above modal scales. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D and F)*
3. Student will parlay theoretical knowledge into spontaneous improvisations employing strict scale to chord relationships. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D and F)*
4. Student will master a repertoire of idiomatic melodic constructs (“licks”) and learn to employ these alongside his/her own free ideas rooted in the jazz idiom. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D and F)*
5. Student will experience the role of each instrument in a jazz ensemble setting, i.e., the rhythm section, chordal, and melodic instruments and their functional relationship. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D, F and G)*
6. Student will learn to tap their creative impulse as an improviser within the confines of the jazz language on the levels of rhythm, melody, and harmony. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D and F)*
7. Student will experience from the inside some of the subtleties, complexities, and nuances of the most artistically significant American musical art form. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D, F and G)*

### **MCCC Core Skills**

**Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving.** Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

**Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making.** Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

**Goal D. 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.

**Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation.** Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

**Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility.** Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

## **B. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Prompt and regular class attendance.
2. Timely completion and practice of all study materials.
3. Two tests and a final evaluation.
4. Participation in one public performance of repertoire studied in class.

### **C. METHOD OF DELIVERY**

Course material will be presented in a combination of lecture segments in which theoretical constructs will be presented and explicated (inclusive listening to recordings of jazz greats) and immediate practical application of concepts in a group improvisation format.

**Student Success Coach:** Mercer students have a Student Success Coach available to support their efforts during their first semester through graduation. Students can connect with a Coach by emailing [Successcoach@mccc.edu](mailto:Successcoach@mccc.edu) or calling 570-3451. [www.mccc.edu/coaching](http://www.mccc.edu/coaching) has useful information about coaching and student success. For additional information, please contact: Latonya Ashford Ligon at 570-3292 or by email [ashfordl@mccc.edu](mailto:ashfordl@mccc.edu) .

**Academic Advising after your first semester:** Faculty advisors provide help with completing your major after your first semester. Your faculty advisor should be listed on the MyMercer portal. If you need further assistance please contact your division Executive Assistant.

Liberal Arts: Debbie Stotland LA162 570-3378 [Stotland@mccc.edu](mailto:Stotland@mccc.edu)  
 Business & Stem: Doris Geck BS134 570-3482 [Geckd@mccc.edu](mailto:Geckd@mccc.edu)  
 Health Professions: Barbara Pieslak MS126 570-3383  
[pieslakb@mccc.edu](mailto:pieslakb@mccc.edu)

**Use your “MyMercer” Portal:** Your “MyMercer” portal contains your MercerMail, financial information, class schedule, grades, your advisor and other information. Check your “MyMercer” portal every day. Visit [www.mccc.edu/mymercer](http://www.mccc.edu/mymercer) to access your portal.

**Center for Inclusion, Transition and Accessibility: Arlene Stinson, Director:** Mercer County Community College recognizes disability as an aspect of diversity and the Center for Transition, Inclusion and Accessibility works to ensure inclusive learning environments by encouraging the college community to examine accessibility and through the delivery of effective academic accommodations to qualified individuals. Mercer County Community College is in compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

For information on Universal Design for Learning, information regarding meeting the needs of students with disabilities, or information regarding the provision of academic accommodations please visit the Center for Transition, Inclusion and Accessibility in LB216 or contact:

Arlene Stinson [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu), Lisa Ward [wardl@mccc.edu](mailto:wardl@mccc.edu) or Susan Onaitis [onaitiss@mccc.edu](mailto:onaitiss@mccc.edu)

**Tutorial Center: Charles Haas, Director**

Tutoring Center services are free and available for all students. Drop in or contact the following to schedule an appointment.

Charles Haas (WWC), LB214, 570-3452, [haasc@mcccc.edu](mailto:haasc@mcccc.edu)  
Angela Frumin, (TC) 311, [frumina@mccc.edu](mailto:frumina@mccc.edu) or John Kashmer, (WWC), LB214, [kashmerj@mccc.edu](mailto:kashmerj@mccc.edu)

**Career and Transfer Center:** Planning to go to work or to transfer to a 4-year college after completing your Mercer degree? Contact the Career and Transfer Center for support and advice.

Letrice Thomas (WWC transfer services), SC201, 570-3397, [thomasl@mccc.edu](mailto:thomasl@mccc.edu)

**Counseling Services:** Are you experiencing personal challenges, feeling overwhelmed? Are you having stress and anxiety? Counseling services are available free of charge. Contact:

Dorothy Gasparro Ed.S, LPC, NCC, SC239, 570-3354, [gasparrd@mccc.edu](mailto:gasparrd@mccc.edu)

**Veteran's Services:** If you are currently serving or have served in the US Armed Forces, or are a family member of someone who has, our Veterans Services Team is here to help you optimize your education benefits. Contact:

John Becker, SC220, 570-3240 or Jennifer Whitfield, SC222, 570-3269, [whitfiej@mccc.edu](mailto:whitfiej@mccc.edu) or [vets@mccc.edu](mailto:vets@mccc.edu)

**Important Fall 2018 dates:**

09/11/18 – Last day for 100% refund

09/30/18– Start FASFA for spring

10/02/18 – 10-week semester starts

11/09/18 – Last day to withdraw from 14-week class

**Academic Integrity Policy**

As stated in the student handbook, "A student will be guilty of violating academic integrity if he/she (a) knowingly represents the work of others as his/her own, (b) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in the execution of academic work, or (c) gives fraudulent assistance to another student." Students should read the Academic Integrity policy in the MCCC Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

***Academic Dishonesty will result in failure of this course.***

### Accommodations

Mercer County Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented differing ability or think that you may have a differing ability that is protected under the ADA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact Arlene Stinson in LB 216 [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu) for information regarding support services.

### Financial Aid Application Statement

It is recommended that student complete an application for financial aid to determine eligibility for financial assistance. Visit [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov) to complete your application. Applications should be completed **before** December 1, 2018. Students who are interested in MCCC Foundation scholarships are expected to complete an application as well.

## D. TOPICAL OUTLINE

### WEEK 1      The Ionian Mode (Major Scale)—

B<sup>♭</sup> major—scale and B<sup>♭</sup> major 9<sup>th</sup> arpeggio;  
Chords – Major 7<sup>th</sup>, major 9<sup>th</sup>, major 6/9

ASSIGNMENT:

- Practice and begin memorizing the B<sup>♭</sup> major scale and B<sup>♭</sup> major 9<sup>th</sup> arpeggio in two octaves as well as ten practice patterns on a worksheet.

### WEEK 2      The Ionian Mode (continued)

G major

ASSIGNMENT:

Transpose all materials on B<sup>♭</sup> major worksheet to the keys of G major (A major or E major for B<sup>♭</sup> and E<sup>♭</sup> instruments). Write all materials using same format as B<sup>♭</sup> worksheet. Practice and memorize. Begin improvising slowly, switching from one scale to the other, using ideas from practice patterns as well as your own.

### WEEK 3      Practice Tune 1— “Bossa Majora”

ASSIGNMENT:

- Thoroughly learn melody and chord sequence of “Bossa Majora” and practice improvising over chords using G major and B<sup>♭</sup> major scales, arpeggios, and practice patterns, and begin developing your own ideas.

WEEK 4      **The Ionian Mode (continued)**  
G major

ASSIGNMENT:

- Prepare a worksheet of study materials for key of C major (Dmaj, Amaj, for B<sup>♭</sup> and E<sup>♭</sup> instruments) as you did for the key of G.
- Learn B<sup>♭</sup> major practice licks and transpose G to C. Analyze all materials in terms of chord tones.
- Review “Bossa Majora” and begin learning *Practice Tune 2*, “Samba Groove”.

WEEK 5      **Practice Tune 2**— “Samba Groove”

ASSIGNMENT:

- Use “Samba Groove” as a vehicle for consolidating all study materials learned so far on the chords of B<sup>♭</sup>, G, and C.

WEEK 6

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Test 1 on the above materials along with an improvisation over the chords of “Samba Groove.”
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A<sup>♭</sup> major and E<sup>♭</sup> major

ASSIGNMENT:

- Prepare a worksheet for keys of A<sup>♭</sup> major and E<sup>♭</sup> major (B<sup>♭</sup> and F, F and C for B<sup>♭</sup> and E<sup>♭</sup> instruments).
- Learn practice licks and transpose to all five keys studied so far.
- Review “Bossa Majora” and “Samba Groove”.

WEEK 7      **Practice Tune 3**— “Rainy Day Voyage”

ASSIGNMENT:

- Prepare practice materials as necessary to improvise over the chord at F major (G and D for B<sup>♭</sup> and E<sup>♭</sup> instruments). Include scale, arpeggio, practice patterns, and licks.
- Begin learning *Practice Tune 4*, “Samba del CM156”.
- Review “Rainy Day Voyage”.

WEEK 8

<b>MIDTERM EVALUATION</b>
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WEEK 9      **Practice Tune 4**— “Samba del CM156”

ASSIGNMENT:

- Learn melody and chord sequence to “Samba del CM156” and review “Rainy Day Voyage” as a vehicle for internalizing all study materials in the chords of G, B<sup>β</sup>, C, A<sup>β</sup>, E<sup>β</sup>, and F major.

WEEK 10 **The Dorian Mode**— structure, derivation, and use of the Dorian mode; the minor 7<sup>th</sup> scale, minor 9<sup>th</sup> and minor 6/9 arpeggios on G and C.

ASSIGNMENT:

- Thoroughly learn materials on G Dorian worksheet and transpose C Dorian (A and D Dorian for B<sup>β</sup> instruments and E and A Dorian for E<sup>β</sup> instruments).
- Begin learning practice licks on the above chords.

WEEK 11 **Practice Tune 5**— “Minor Collision”

ASSIGNMENT:

- Learn melody and chord sequence of “Minor Collision” and begin improvising over chord changes using G and C Dorian materials and B<sup>β</sup> and A<sup>β</sup> major.
- Review worksheets and practice licks for G and C Dorian.
- Review “Rainy Day Voyage” and “Samba del CM156”.

WEEK 12 **The Dorian Mode** (continued)  
 F Dorian                      A<sup>β</sup> Dorian                      B<sup>β</sup> Dorian

ASSIGNMENT:

- Prepare a scale and arpeggio worksheet for the above chordal centers and transpose practice licks accordingly.
- Practice improvisation exercise over Fmin<sup>9</sup>, Amin<sup>9</sup>, Gmin<sup>9</sup>, B<sup>β</sup>min<sup>9</sup>.
- Review “Minor Collision”.

WEEK 13 **Practice Tune 6**— “Nostalgia”

ASSIGNMENT:

- “Nostalgia” includes almost all major and minor chords studied thus far. Use this tune as a vehicle for consolidating and using creatively all of your practice materials. Chord-scale centers include F, A<sup>β</sup>, G, B<sup>β</sup>, and C Dorian and G, C B<sup>β</sup>, A<sup>β</sup>, and F major. There is also a one-measure excursion over the chord of G<sup>β</sup>maj<sup>9</sup>. You know what to do!

WEEK 14 **Practice Tune Review**

ASSIGNMENT:

- “Rainy Day Voyage”, “Samba del CM156”, “Minor Collisions”, and “Nostalgia”
- Continue reviewing and assimilating all study materials for G, C, F, A<sup>β</sup>, and B<sup>β</sup> Dorian and practice the above four tunes.

WEEK 15 **Practical Application**

ASSIGNMENT:

- This week will be devoted to reading through and improvising over tunes from the standard jazz repertoire selected for their applicability of concepts and materials studied throughout the semester. You will be expected to play from lead sheets, “reading down” the tune and improvising over the chord changes in the manner of an actual jazz jam session. Be prepared!

WEEK 16 **SUMMATIVE EVALUATION**

*Format and details to be announced.*