



## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**MUS223**

Course Number

**Jazz Keyboard Harmony & Improvisation**

Course title

**1**

Credits

**0 lecture/2 lab**

Hours

**Catalog description:**

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

**Prerequisites:** MUS 221 Piano III, or equivalent

**Corequisites:** None

**Required texts/other materials:**

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

**Last revised:** Fall 2021

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

## A. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

### MCCC Core Skills

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

**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.

**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

[pieslakh@mccc.edu](mailto:pieslakh@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@mccc.edu](mailto:haasc@mccc.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.

**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