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## **JAZZ IMPROVISATION IV**

**MUSC330.001** | SPRING

MWF 10:10-11:00 | 040

**BERT LIGON** | Room 122 | 777.6565 | bligon@mozart.sc.edu

music.sc.edu/ea/Jazz/Improv330.html

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### **1 COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Applications of jazz theory skills. Students explore selected jazz repertoire in-depth applying technical and theoretical concepts. This class is part of the applied sequence for jazz majors, and in some ways is modeled after applied lessons. Students will get feedback in daily classes and will also be graded with a final jury.

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### **2 GOALS & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Improvisational methods over standard jazz literature. Students will continue to develop vocabulary with melodic development, connecting chords with linear harmony, but will take responsibility for more personal choices within the music including harmonic substitutions, other scale choices including borrowing from other keys, exploring other harmonic colors including modes of melodic minor, modes of major<sup>b</sup>6. Students will demonstrate these skills artistically improvising over more challenging harmonic progressions and forms and memorized tunes from contemporary jazz repertoire.

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### **SKILLS**

- Modes of Melodic Minor applied to specific chords
  - Selected Melodic Minor arpeggios (from handouts)
  - Symmetrical diminished scales and applications
  - 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> modes of major<sup>b</sup>6 scales.
  - Pentatonic, side-slipping & motivic exercises
  - Selected technical studies and Jazz Etudes as assigned
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### **3 MATERIALS**

***Jazz Theory Resources, [Vol. 2]***, Bert Ligon

Staff paper, pencils, & your instrument

Partial list of jazz CDs available in the USC Music Library: [www.music.sc.edu/ea/Jazz/USCjazzCDs.pdf](http://www.music.sc.edu/ea/Jazz/USCjazzCDs.pdf)

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### **4 CLASS STRUCTURE**

- Lecture and demonstration of improvisation vocabulary and techniques.
  - Address, memorize and learn strategies for 2-3 tunes per week.
  - Students will improvise in class using discussed techniques practiced outside of class
  - Students will participate in discussion and critique of class performances
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### **5 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Attend and participate during class time improvisation
  - Be prepared to discuss musical elements
  - Transcribe and present to class four appropriate jazz transcriptions (see separate handout)
  - Four playing exams. Exams may include tune memorization, improvisation over tunes, specific technical exercises and etudes assigned in class and applied to specific pieces.
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### **6 COURSE POLICIES**

Much of your grade will depend on your performance in class. The university attendance policy states the following: "Enrollment in a course obligates the student not only for prompt completion of all work assigned but also for punctual and regular attendance and for participation in whatever class discussion may occur. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed concerning all assignments made. Absences whether excused or unexcused do not absolve him or her from this responsibility. Absence from more than 10% of the scheduled classes, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences." The Handbook for Undergraduate Students; "A student taking applied lessons who incurs more than two (2) unexcused absences will receive a failing grade." As this class relates to applied lessons, and applied lessons are usually once per week, this converts to missing 4 classes on a TTH or 6 on a MWF schedule.

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**7****ASSESSMENT & GRADING**

• Playing exams (2 @10%)	20%
• Mid-term Evaluation playing exam	10%
• Classroom participation	10%
• Improvisation notebook*	10%
• Short Transcription Assignments (2 @ 5%)	10%
• Complete Transcription Assignment (2 @ 10%)	20%
• Final Improvisation Jury	20%
• <b>Final Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

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\*Improvisation workbook will include:

- Log of exercises and approaches, handouts from class.
  - Bass lines, voicings for rhythm section
  - Transcription excerpts and complete transcriptions
  - Practice/exercise log
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**8****OUTLINE**

Be prepared to play the melody, chord changes, and improvise over the selected 2-3 tunes per week.

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**Improv IV: TUNES may include:**

Clifford Brown tunes:

- Cherokee
- Invitation
- Daahoud
- Joy Spring

Herbie Hancock:

- Dolphin Dance

Chick Corea:

- Windows
- Tones for Joan's Bones

Joe Henderson:

- No Me Esqueca
- Inner Urge

John Coltrane:

- Giant Steps
- Moment's Notice

Standards in all keys:

- Stella by Starlight
- It's You or No One
- Falling in Love with Love

Wayne Shorter:

- Dance Cadaverous
- Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum
- Footprints
- Infant Eyes
- Nefertiti
- Pinocchio
- Wildflower
- Yes and No

What is This Thing Called Love?

- My Foolish Heart
  - Nuages
  - Others, TBA
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