
JAZZ THEORY I

MUSC319 | SPRING

MWF 11:15-12:05 | **215**

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

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

1 COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the language of jazz improvisation: rhythms, articulations, style, harmony and melody, forms, simple analysis, chord/scale relationships, ear training and keyboard harmony.

2 GOALS & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to describe and compare basic elements of music theory as it relates to jazz, including foundational principles of idiomatic harmony, voice leading and melodic construction, and to describe and compare the relationship of jazz music theory and practices to the a variety of styles from the Antiquity through Modern times.

Rhythmic and Articulation Aspects

Harmonic Analysis: Functional Harmony, Progressions, Substitutions

Common Melodic Outlines

Chord symbols

Bass lines

Ear-Training

Basic four & five part voice leading

3 MATERIALS

Jazz Theory Resources, [Vol. I], Bert Ligon

Staff paper/pencil

4 CLASS STRUCTURE

- Lecture
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5 COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend and participate during class time
 - Two tests
 - Mid-term Exam
 - Final Exam
 - Aural Exam (singing modulations)
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6 COURSE POLICIES

Some 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 percent of the scheduled classes, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences."

7 ASSESSMENT & GRADING

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|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Attendance and Weekly assignments | 10% |
| • Tests (2 @ 15% each) | 30% |
| • Mid-term Exam | 15% |
| • Final Exam | 20% |
| • Classroom participation/assignments | 10% |
| • Aural Exam (singing modulations) | 15% |
| • Final Grade | 100% |

*Short transcriptions, set of exercises developed from transcription excerpts, solos on standard tunes using material from the class, and much more ...

8 OUTLINE

Class lectures will follow the chapters in *Jazz Theory Resources, [Vol. I]*. Specific reading assignments will not be given. During each section, the student will be expected to read, review and have appropriate questions from the corresponding chapters in the book.