

Jazz Improvisation
MUSC 4321
Dr. Geyer

Fall 2019
Time: TBD
Humanities 334

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office: Humanities 334
Office Phone: (678)839-6275
Office hours: Email for flexible appointments

Required Materials:

- Practice Journal: a spiral-bound book of staff paper
- Pencil
- Other materials as assigned

Course Description: Lessons in jazz improvisation on an instrument or voice including an introduction to basic principles of jazz improvisation through lecture, demonstration, listening, writing, and performing. Students complete assignments by using traditional methods and by using the tools of music technology. All courses are repeatable for one or two hours of credit--one 25-minute lesson per week per credit hour

Learning Outcomes: The student will demonstrate at the upper-division level:

1. The ability to perform a variety of scales which are used in jazz improvisation.
2. Knowledge of the various styles of jazz and how improvisations relate to those styles.
3. Knowledge of the various chord formations used in jazz improvisation.
4. The ability to perform a jazz composition and improvise over the "changes" of that composition in a variety of jazz styles.
5. Knowledge of the various terms and practices of a variety of jazz styles.

Common Language for UWG Syllabi: <https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>
Information on Wellness: <https://www.westga.edu/music/wellness/>

Course Details

A lesson will be held each week of the semester except on official university holidays. Each week I will assign 2–4 projects to work on. At the next meeting, you will demonstrate your work on those projects by documenting your progress in your practice journal. I will grade each project according to the below rubric and average those scores to derive your lesson grade. Your final semester grade will be the average of the lesson grades. Please contact me if you become aware that you need to miss a lesson and I will try to reschedule. Missed lessons without prior communication will be assigned a grade of 0 (except for documented emergencies).

Grading Rubric: Assignments, concerts, and the recording will be graded on the following rubric, measuring your command over the material and commitment to the experience:

- 100%: complete command and commitment
- 90%: “almost there” except for a minor problem
- 80%: Satisfactory
- 67%: Struggling
- 0%: Incomplete or unsatisfactory

Semester Grades: 90–100%: A 80–89%: B 70–79%: C 60–69%: D 0–59%: F