MUSC 224: Supervised Graduate Study in Applied Jazz Bass

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Supervised graduate study - working with the individual jazz bassist in acquiring technical, musical, and practical skills, and the knowledge of the repertoire necessary for performance and/or teaching.

INSTRUCTION:
One 1/2 hour (1 credit) or one hour (2 credits) of private instruction per week. Each lesson will consist of focused work on individual physical or body problems, sound production, intonation, technique and facility, scales and theory as applied to bass playing, time as applied to bass playing, soloing, accompanying, the “mental game” involved with playing jazz, and the building of a memorized repertoire. The exercises, literature, and ideas studied in the private lesson should be the foundation for the student's daily practice.

Every student will begin at a unique level, with a unique set of strengths and weaknesses. Every student will progress at their own individual pace, influenced by a unique set of motivations and impediments. Because of this, rather than following a generically scripted program with goals for each semester, jazz bassists will be required to work on improving all aspects of bass playing every semester, concentrating on problematic areas as they are encountered. There are essentially two milestones along the way:
- By the end of the second semester, it is expected that the student will be capable of performing in professional situations.
- By the end of the final semester, it is hoped that the student will be well on the way to being a valued and contributing member of the professional community. This is also when the Culminating Experience Recital would take place.

In order to pass the second milestone, students will need to achieve at least competence in these areas:
- General Technique; for fatigue-free playing, robust tone, and good facility on the instrument.
- Intonation; a constant effort for all acoustic bassists.
- Theory; for a bassist, there is much more to theory than you learn in classical or jazz theory class.
- Time; bassists must be constantly and fully aware of the nuances of time, and be able to manipulate them at will.
- Soloing; something that every bassist must be capable of doing without planning for.
- “Mental Game”; the bassist can shape the harmony, the groove, the form, and the energy of any performance.
- Repertoire; bassists must know as many jazz standards, of all styles, as possible, and be able to quickly memorize new material.

As mentioned above, all seven of these critical areas are equally important in the end; but depending on a student's ability and experience, some may be emphasized more than others. A raw beginner, for example, will doubtless have to spend more time on technique at the start, while a professional-level bassist may concentrate on soloing or repertoire.
PERFORMANCES:

All music majors are required to register for Music 81 (lower division) or 181 (upper division) each semester. Students must attend 12 performances. (These may include Tuesday/Thursday Recital Hour, faculty recitals, senior/graduate recitals or SJSU ensemble concerts. Concert credit is not given to students performing on a recital.
Please check the Undergraduate Handbook for more details.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTENDANCE:

1. All faculty recitals given by your applied teacher.
2. All student junior/senior/graduate recitals within your studio.
3. __________________________________________
4. __________________________________________
5. __________________________________________

EVALUATION:

Due to the laboratory nature of this class, students will be graded on lesson participation and preparedness. For the Final Exam it will be necessary for each student to participate in a jury.

The jury for the Fall 2014 will be on Thursday December 11th. All juries must be passed with a C or better to move to the next level of study. Students who do not pass their jury will be placed on probation as a music major. Each lesson will be graded for 1) Good preparation of assigned material, 2) Progress made during the week on specific assignments, and 3) Positive movement on long range technique. Criteria for grades are:

A Excellent technical and musical mastery of assigned material. A consistent mastery of material. Assigned scale work at the appropriate tempo played with even technical control. Closure on assigned material within one week with new material assigned.

B Good progress on assigned material. Some minor or technical problems to correct. Portions of the material will be reassigned for additional study. Assigned scales at reduced speed or with minor technical flaws.

C Work has been done on the assigned material. Technical problems and phrasing problems remain an obstacle. More time needed with slow practice of small sections of material to gain better mastery. Scales slow and uneven.

D Assigned work not prepared to minimum standards. Technical flaws prohibit playing through assigned material without frequent stops. Assigned scales played with little evidence of practice, major errors in notes, rhythm and smoothness.

F Lesson missed without notice or appropriate reason.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:
Solo performance experience is essential to the development of the music major. Each major is required to perform yearly in either A) a studio recital (a recital of students from an applied instructor's studio for the purpose of playing for one another- not open to the general public) or B) a public recital (appearance on the Tuesday/Thursday Listening Hour or other recitals open to the public).

Freshmen:  BA or BM- Music Ed: one studio recital required.  
            BM Performance: one studio and one public performance required
Sophomore:  BA or BM- Music Ed: two studio recitals required
            BM Performance: two public performances required
Junior:    BA or BM- Music Ed: one studio and one public performance required
            BM Performance: one public recital and a solo Junior Recital
Senior:   BA or BM- Music Ed: one public performance and half Senior Recital
            BM Performance: one public performance and full Senior Recital

No major may graduate without these requirements. Performance dates and types must be verified on each semester's jury form. Students wishing to perform on a Tuesday/Thursday Listening Hour must contact Joan Stubbe (Room 206; 4-4649) to sign-up for a date and to complete necessary paperwork.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Students taking applied voice lessons are expected to attend each scheduled lesson. If it is necessary to miss a lesson because of illness or a family emergency, the instructor should be notified 24 hours in advance. A lesson will be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

MUSIC USE FEE:

Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of $30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier's Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid. Music 10B students, or students enrolled in any sound recording course, must pay a fee of $22 each semester that they are enrolled in one of more of these classes. The fees are included in the student's bill, with other registration fees.

APPLIED MUSIC FEE:

Music majors must pay an Applied Music Fee of $125 each semester they are taking applied lessons. Applied music instruction WILL NOT be authorized until this fee is paid.

DROP POLICY:

The deadline to drop a class without a W is on the fourteenth day of instruction. After the fourteenth day drops and withdrawals will be allowed only for serious and compelling
reasons and documentation will be required to support those reasons. All petitions to drop or withdraw will be reviewed by the Director of Academic Services.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The academic policy can be found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html/

CAMPUS POLICY ON ADA COMPLIANCE:

If you need course adaptations of accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangement in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.