Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Nichole Boaz & Thomas Langan
Office Location: Nichole: MUS 206
              Tom: MUS 271
Telephone: Nichole: Ext. 4-4649
Email: Nichole: jazznichole@gmail.com
      Tom: thomas.langan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Class Days/Time: Tue/Thu 10:30-11:45
Classroom: MUS 150
Prerequisites: MUSC 1A/1B and MUSC 25A, or equivalent.
Course Fees: Music Use Fee ($30)

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Leaning Management System course website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas messaging system and the email address associated with your MySJSU account to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Development of performance skills for lead-sheet interpretation, response and interplay, ear-training for improvisers, basic chord-scales and jazz vocabulary. Vocal, instrumental, and transcription exercises. In-class performance. Emphasis will be placed on blues, modal compositions, and simple song forms.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic jazz language and vernacular associated with theory, practice, and performance.
2. Students will be aware of their individual parts and how they work in the musical fabric of the compositions studied.
3. Learners will have an understanding of artistic and stylistically accurate renderings of music from the jazz idiom.
Required Texts

Textbook

*The Real Easy Book – Volume 2* by Chuck Sher. ISBN 978-1883217167. Approximately $29 on [Amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or at your local music store. Available in C, Bb, Eb, and Bass Clef versions – make sure you buy it in the right key for your instrument!

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Staff paper.

Recommended Texts/Resources

The iReal Pro app. Available for iPhone, Android, or iPad for $12.99, or OS X for $19.99.


Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation

Jazz improvisation is a hands-on activity. As a result, the primary focus of this class will be playing and performing. You are expected to be present in class and fully engaged. Participation includes playing your instrument as well as listening attentively to the performances of your peers. While you are also expected to practice outside of class, solo practice time is not a substitute for in-class participation. Playing with other musicians is essential when learning to improvise.

Homework

Homework will consist of individual practice time—half an hour to an hour a day is expected—as well as weekly take home assignments, which will be assigned in-class. The weekly assignments will generally consist of either a listening response, transcription, or a music theory assignment, such as harmonic analysis or writing out scales.

Playing Tests

There will be three playing tests, each of which will assess your ability to play an improvised solo on one of the tunes covered in the weeks leading up to the test.

- Playing Test 1: various blues tunes, Take the “A” Train, and Tune Up
- Playing Test 2: Solar, I Should Care, and Once I Loved
- Playing Test 3: Four, Groovin’ High, Scrapple from the Apple

Late Work and Absences

Homework will be accepted up to a week late for 50% credit. If you have extenuating circumstances, playing tests may be rescheduled with advance notice, but a playing test missed without advance notice cannot be made up and will receive a grade of zero.

Participation is assessed on a class by class basis and cannot be rescheduled. It is the student’s responsibility to give advance notice if for any reason they will be unable to participate in a class session.
More details can be found from University Syllabus Policy S16-9 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf.

**Final Examination or Evaluation**

The final exam will consist of a final playing test, similar to the first three playing tests. The final playing test will be on the tunes covered in the last three weeks of class: Triste, Whisper Not, and Alice in Wonderland. It will also include a comprehensive component dealing with material covered previously in the semester.

More details can be found in University Policy S06-4 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) which states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.”

**Grading Information**

**Determination of Grades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Test 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Test 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Test 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Playing Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades will be determined based on these percentages:

- A+ = 97-100%
- A  = 93-96%
- A- = 90-92%
- B+ = 87-89%
- B  = 83-86%
- B- = 80-82%
- C+ = 77-79%
- C  = 73-76%
- C- = 70-72%
- D  = 60-69%
- F  = 0-59%

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit assignments may be made available at the discretion of the instructors, however, they will be worth no more than a total of 10% of the overall grade.

**Further Information**

More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)
- University policy F15-12 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf)

**Classroom Protocol**

Be prepared, be attentive, be supportive, be respectful and helpful.

**University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”
### MUSC 40A – Jazz Improvisation I – Fall 2016 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with adequate notice given in class, by email, or on Canvas.

#### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Syllabus / C Jam Blues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/30, 9/1</td>
<td>Tenor Madness &amp; Mr. P.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/6, 9/8</td>
<td>Take the “A” Train</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/13, 9/15</td>
<td>Tune Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/20, 9/22</td>
<td>Playing Test 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/27, 9/29</td>
<td>Solar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/4, 10/6</td>
<td>I Should Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/11, 10/13</td>
<td>Once I Loved</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/18, 10/20</td>
<td>Playing Test 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/25, 10/27</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/1, 11/3</td>
<td>Groovin’ High</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/8, 11/10</td>
<td>Scrapple from the Apple</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/15, 11/17</td>
<td>Playing Test 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Triste</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/29, 12/1</td>
<td>Whisper Not</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/6, 12/8</td>
<td>Alice In Wonderland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 12/15</td>
<td>MUS 150, 9:45am-12pm</td>
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