San Jose State University  
School of Music and Dance  
MUSC 60F/160F, Small Jazz Ensemble, Section 2  
Fall 2016

Contact Information

Instructor: John Shifflett  
Office Location: MUS 187  
Email: john.shifflett@sjsu.edu  
Telephone: Please use email instead!!  
Office House: By appointment  
Class Day/Time: 1:45 per week, schedule to be determined  
Classroom: MUS 186  
Prerequisites: Instructor consent; MUSC 1A & 1B, 40A & 40B: or equivalents

Course Description

Small-group jazz performance: standard literature, informal ("head") arrangements. In-class and/or public performances.

Course Goals

The goal of the Small Jazz Ensemble is to perform music in various styles of the jazz idiom, making that music of the highest quality possible. Emphasis is placed on developing the skills needed to accomplish this in the context of a small jazz band: playing a head, accompanying soloists, creating arrangements and changing them on the fly, recovering from mistakes, and being aware of how each individual fits in and serves the group as a whole.

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that students will improve ensemble playing skills and improvisational ability, and increase their understanding and appreciation of jazz music. It is also expected that they will demonstrate professional behavior by being on time and prepared for rehearsals, and by showing proper stage and concert etiquette during public performances.

Materials

You'll need your instrument and a Real Book (6th edition). Also be sure to bring any music handed out in previous classes. If you need amplification, bring an amp (and mic if needed); the department has several bass and guitar amps that should usually be available. PLAN AHEAD.
Classroom Protocol/Attendance Policy
Attendance is expected. If you must miss a class period, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor ahead of time so that he can modify his plans accordingly.

Grading Policy
Grading will be based on musicianship in a group context, and improvement in individual musical skills.

Performances
This semester each combo will perform in at least one public concert (dates to be determined and assigned as soon as possible!)

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/"