

Phoenix College Music Department
JAZZ COMBO
Course Syllabus
MUP 163 Class# 37717/ 63820
Fall 2009
Professor: Milas Yoes
Office: M113
Office Hrs: MW 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. TR 8:20-8:50
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TEXT

Depending upon group placement, students may be asked to purchase one of the following texts: Real Easy Book Volumes I, II, III, The Real Book.

DESCRIPTION

Practical and performance experience in various jazz styles. Open to all students on the basis of auditions. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: None. This is a performance-oriented course dealing with all aspects of small group jazz performance. Students will have several on campus and off campus performance opportunities throughout the semester.

MCCCD OFFICIAL COURSE COMPETENCES

- Perform a variety of jazz literature.
- Increase range on chosen instrument.
- Increase ability to sight read.
- Improve improvisational skills.
- Participate in concerts.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Be part of a cohesive group with the aim of developing a distinct musical personality.
- Memorize and perform several tunes from jazz popular repertoire.
- Become a stronger improviser within the small group context.

OBJECTIVES

- To learn how a jazz musician functions in a combo setting.
- To learn "Standard Repertoire." This includes both jazz tunes and standard tunes.
- To solidify the soloist's harmonic and rhythmic improvised musical language.
- To develop improvised solos that are cohesive in nature and within the style parameters of the given repertoire.
- To develop a sense of programming and pacing within all members of the group.
- To develop appropriate rhythm section comping skills within the style parameters of the given repertoire.
- To develop individual creativity through performance, composition, and arranging.
- Performances - All members of the combos are required to participate in these performances.
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REQUIREMENTS

- Combos will rehearse two hours per week. Students should prepare all repertoire and assignments prior to these rehearsals.
- All repertoire with the exception of arrangements should be memorized. This includes the introductions, melodies, chord changes, and endings.
- Students may be asked to demonstrate melodies, chords, and scales for a grade.
- When assignments are given, students will be expected to complete the assignments on the given due date. If assignments are not completed by the due date, the instructor reserves the right to lower the student's grade on that assignment.
- Appropriate formal dress is required for concerts. Black on black casual dress clothes.

ATTENDANCE

- Students will be allowed two absences. After the second absence, the student's total semester grade will be lowered five percentage points (half a letter grade) per absence.
- Students must notify the professor in advance by phone/text: 480-239-2124. Extenuating circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the instructor.
- Class time begins at the posted start time. Lateness is unacceptable. For every two times a student is late to class or leaves early, it will be counted as an absence.

GRADING POLICY

- Rehearsal Attendance/ Participation 50 %
- Concert Performance 25%
- Playing Tests 25%

JAZZ FORUM

All combo members are required to attend the jazz forum every Wednesday from 3-4p.m. This time is reserved for guest artists, clinicians, combo performances and peer evaluation. It will be counted as part of each combo rehearsal schedule.

PRACTICE

It is important that you understand your role in a combo. Here are some helpful concepts to remember when you practice.

1. Know the melody and formal structure of the tunes you are playing. Forms may vary, but are generally 12 bar blues, or some type of 32-bar song form (AABA, ABAC, etc.). There are some variants of these forms. Be in control of your melodic playing, especially regarding intonation.
2. Know what key areas are represented by the music.
3. Practice the arpeggios of the tunes harmonic structure. It is imperative that you know all of the chord tones, at least R 3 5 7, of the chords in the tunes that you are playing. This will eventually become a "safety net" of notes that you can refer to in your improvisation
4. Know what scales are primarily associated with each chord in the tunes you are playing.
5. Listen to as much jazz as you possibly can. We did not grow up with this musical style; therefore it is not in our nature to play it well at first try. The more you listen, the easier it will be for you to play and understand. At least listen to several different versions of the tunes you are playing

CONCERT PERFORMANCES

This semester the combos will be performing a wide variety of jazz music. Students will be expected to learn the melody, form and chord changes of every tune to be performed. Playing tests will be used to measure student proficiency. Additional performances will be scheduled for special school functions and various venues off campus. All groups are encouraged to rehearse and perform as often as possible outside of class.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Services and accommodations to special needs students are available through the P.C. Learning Center. However, it is up to the student to initiate the process. Some services may require 3-4 weeks prior notification. For further information, contact the Special Services in the Learning Center (602) 285- 7478.

POLICY CHANGES

Information included in this syllabus may be subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes in course requirements or policies.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLEGE POLICIES

Students are responsible for knowing all college policies that pertain to them as found in the college catalogue and student handbook. College catalogues and student handbooks can be obtained from Admissions and Records or viewed online from the Phoenix College website (<http://www.pc.maricopa.edu>) under the "Student Services" section.

