

Jazz Theory/Improvisation 43A Fall 2006

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Course Description

The main objective of this class is to acquire the basic skills needed to improvise over a given set of chord changes in a jazz style. Fundamental jazz harmony, scales, melodic devices, and basic elements of the jazz language are some of the topics that will be covered. In this class we will spend time listening to and analyzing jazz solos from a variety of great jazz artists.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements

The prerequisite for this class is Music 6 or permission from the instructor. The first week we will review basic music fundamentals including intervals, scales, triads, key signatures, etc. If these concepts are new to you the class will be very difficult. Please have a spiral bound book of manuscript paper.

Written Assignments

Throughout the class we will have various written assignments including solo composition, theory exercises and tune/solo analysis.

Aural

You will be required to sing/play many of the concepts covered in the class. If you are a drummer you must sing for exercises and tests.

Late Assignment and Make-up Policy

Late assignments will receive a 10% reduction for each day beyond the due date.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. You can't learn to improvise unless you are actively performing with other musicians. **Please be on time.**

Midterm

For the midterm, you will transcribe a solo from a recording and perform it from memory along with accompaniment. *Note: the due date for the notated solo will be before the midterm. See Due Dates handout.*

Final Exam

For the final, you will transcribe two solos from recordings and perform both from memory along with accompaniment. . *Note: the due dates for the notated solo will be before the midterm. See Due Dates handout.*

Evaluation

Attendance:	5 points each class (30)
Transcriptions (small)	20 points each (7)
Transcriptions (large)	100 points each (3)
Written Assignments	20 points each (8)
Midterm	100 points
Final	200 points

A = 940 – 1050 B = 835 – 939 C = 730 – 834 D = 625 – 729 F – 624 and below