

Dr. Elizabeth Ruccius
Office – 305 Music Building
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Hours – M-Th, 1-2pm, and by appt.

Improvisation – MUS 322.2
Foy Hall, T TH 10:20-11:10

Textbooks

Green, Barry and Gallwey, W. Timothy. The Inner Game of Music. 1986.
Nachmanovitch, Stephen. Free Play. 1990.

On Reserve

Bach – Goldberg Variations, score and recordings
Piano – original
Jacques Loussier trio – jazz version
Terry Riley – In C, CD and score

Course Objectives

Students will begin by using their bodies, voices, percussion instruments, Orff instruments and eventually their applied instruments to explore rhythmic and melodic possibilities. Students will use the six elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, tone color, form, expression) as well as different forms of music for improvisation. The goal is that students become comfortable expressing themselves through sound, through music, and become less self-conscious as performers. We will use many techniques to explore the infinite expressive possibilities using the widest variety of dynamics, tempo, rubato, fermata and any other musical emotions. Experimentation will be encouraged. Blues structure will be used for more formal improvisation exercises where students will follow the 12 bar blues harmonic structure and using a step by step process, improvise on given melodies in the large class and then in small ensembles.

Assignments

Reflection Log – Due at the last meeting. Includes 3 separate papers based on the topics listed below. Each will include critical reflections and reactions. The papers based on books should focus on 2 or 3 ideas that you found particularly helpful or interesting.

- a. The Inner Game of Music
- b. Free Play
- c. The process of creating the blues composition

Required concerts

All B. Mus. Students are required to attend the concert trip to NYC on October 24th. There will be no music classes that day.

Additionally, all students must attend 2 jazz or big band concerts during the semester and write a short review of each.

Grading

Class participation/attendance 40%
Homework – papers, compositions, concert attendance, reviews 40%
Reflection log - 20%

Students can expect to work 5 hours/week outside of class in preparation

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in the timely fashion.

Schedule – Subject to change

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	8/28	Classes begin	Green – intro-ch. 3
2	9/4	rhythmic improvisation	ch. 4-8
3	9/11	rhythmic and vocal improvisation	ch. 8-11
4	9/18	bring instruments, begin instrument improv.	ch. 12-15
5	9/25	bring inst., begin inst. improv.	Nachmanovitch, The Sources
6	10/2	bring inst., begin blues progression	The Work
7	10/9	listen to <u>In C</u> , follow score	Obstacles and Openings, no class on 10/9
8	10/16	perform <u>In C</u> in class, begin comp.	The Fruits
9	10/23	continue comps, continue blues	
10	10/30	continue projects	
11	11/6	continue projects, demo. to class	
12	11/13	all groups perform blues, eval. and discuss	
13	11/20	perform <u>In C</u> comps.	No class 11/22
14	11/27	perform <u>In C</u> comps	
15	12/4	use 12 bar blues comps in class	

