

Jazz Methods Course Syllabus

Course Number: MUS 365.1 Semester: Fall 2008 Location/Time: Room 207/Tuesday, 12:50-1:40 Office Hours: Will be posted after 9/5/08	Instructor: Neil Wetzel Office: room 317 Phone: (610) 861-1621 Email: nwetzel@moravian.edu
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Course Objectives The overall goal for the class is for the student to gain an understanding of and become familiar with jazz performance practices and be able to teach students how to play jazz. More specifically, students will:

- improvise over basic jazz forms and harmonic structures.
- demonstrate techniques to teach beginning jazz improvisation.
- select appropriate music for instrumental and vocal jazz groups.
- demonstrate the ability to direct and rehearse a jazz ensemble.
- demonstrate basic performing techniques on jazz rhythm section instruments (piano, bass, drums).
- listen to and reflect on great jazz recordings.

Texts: Lawn, R. (1981). *The Jazz Ensemble Director's Manual; A Handbook of Practical Methods and Materials for the Educator*. C.L. Barnhouse.
Wetzel, N. (2007). *Learning Jazz Language; A Method for Teaching Beginning Jazz*. (Unpublished handbook and CD set, to be provided by the instructor).

This syllabus may be subject to change.

Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on the grades of assignments and the playing final. The written assignments will be compiled on CD and turned in at the last meeting of the semester.

The final grade will be a compilation following this formula:

Class participation/attendance:	15%
<i>Learning Jazz Language</i> presentation:	15%
Observation report:	15%
Homework assignments:	20%
Jazz Festival or Syllabus project:	20%
Weekly log:	15%

Attendance: Please note that attendance accounts for part of your grade. Unexcused absences will result in a point deduction from your grade. If you arrive in class more than ten minutes late, you will be considered absent (exceptions: weather problems or other circumstances beyond your control).

Academic Honesty: Students must adhere to college-wide policies on academic honesty, as described in the Student Handbook.

Students with Disabilities: 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 a timely fashion.

Date:	Content:
Aug. 26	Introduction: Why teach jazz? Jazz in the schools; different jazz ensembles: small groups (combos), big band and vocal jazz. Learning to play jazz: Listen/Practice/Play. Jazz history overview. Assignment for next class: Learn blues melody on <i>Learning Jazz Language</i> CD; Log. Read Lawn, Ch. 1.
Sept. 2	Roles of the jazz artist: composer/virtuoso/theorist and cognitive domains. Learning: linear or spiral? Experiential or lecture? Intro to <i>LJL</i> and learning theory. The Blues: the blues in Bb and the blues scale (good or bad?). The jazz performance (communication, performance etiquette, common hand signals). Assignment for next class: Improvise on roots, 1-2-1-1, 2-1-2-1; Log. Read Lawn Ch. 2 & 3.
Sept. 9	First student presentation: <i>Learning Jazz Language (LJL)</i> . The role of jazz ensembles in a school: combo vs. big band, pros and cons; auditions or ‘cattle call.’ Blues scale exercises. Jazz theory I: chord extensions (7ths, 9ths, 11ths, 13ths) and chord notation. Assignment for next class: Student assigns from <i>Learning Jazz Language</i> ; Log. Read Lawn Ch. 11 & 12.
Sept. 16	The jazz rehearsal-an introduction (Skills necessary to run a group). Jazz theory II-chord substitutions and “Rhythm” changes in Bb. Rhythm section roles I: piano comping/voicings. Assignment for next class: Observe jazz rehearsal; Log. Read Lawn Ch. 5 & 6.
Sept. 23	Conducting and leading a jazz ensemble (big band, combo, vocal): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing appropriate music (age and concept factors), • role of the conductor. • Style considerations (articulation, swing, etc.) Rhythm section roles III: the bass line. Assignment for next class: Pick out score; explain why you chose it; Log. Read Lawn Ch. 7 & 8.
Sept. 30	Jazz theory III: ii-V’s and their function in jazz. ‘Scale of the Week’ exercises. Improvising over tonal centers. Rhythm section roles III: Basic drum beats. Assignment for next class: Rhythm section EXAM—play day; Log. Read Lawn Ch. 4 & 13.
Fall Break	
Oct. 14	Rhythm Section Play Day: Play ALL rhythm instruments (piano, drums, bass); Assignment for next class: Jazz rehearsal observation due. Log. Read Lawn Ch. 14.
Oct. 21	Jazz education materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play-alongs (Jamey Aebersold) • Fake Books • Computer software (Band In a Box), a trip to computer lab for software demo • Online sources: www.jazzbooks.com and www.allaboutjazz.com. Assignment for next class: Orally report on resource from those examined; Log. Read Lawn Ch. 9.
Oct. 28	School performances: programming, scheduling, community relations. The jazz competition/festivals: pros and cons. Jazz theory IV-modes and hybrid scales (whole tone, diminished, bebop, etc.). Assignment for next class: Begin project. Pick jazz vocal chart to conduct in class; Log
Nov. 4	Planning and implementing a jazz festival in your school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental support groups and funding. • Judging criteria and picking judges. • Guest performers and clinics. Assignment for next class: Work on jazz festival major project; Log
Nov. 11	Advanced improvisational practice techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • memorization of licks/patterns • memorization of tunes • transposition of above into all keys-half steps, whole steps, circle of fifths, etc. Assignment for next class: Work on projects; Log
Nov. 18	Practical theory for the school student (or “how will I teach all this to my students?”) Professional organizations and journals (IAJE—NOT!!!). The direction of jazz education. Share projects with class members. Assignment for next class: Practice jazz tune for final: arpeggiate.
Nov. 25	Scheduling jazz classes into the school day: curricular or after-school activities? Assignment for next class: Practice jazz tune for final: arpeggiate.
Dec. 2	Final jam session/playing exam. Assignment for next class: Final project due.
Dec. 9	Final projects are due. Catch-up, fill out evaluations.

Class Assignments:

1. *Jazz Performance.* Performance assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. The student will perform and improvise in front of class on assigned jazz tunes and on different rhythm section instruments.
2. *Observation Report.* Attend a rehearsal of a jazz ensemble (big band, combo, vocal jazz ensemble) Write an observation report that addresses these questions:
 - a. What about the rehearsal stood out to you?
 - b. What kind of classroom/rehearsal activities did you observe?
 - c. What seemed to work best? What didn't? Why do you suppose that was?
 - d. What one (or two) things could you take away to use in your own practice?
3. *Teach a lesson using 'Learning Jazz Language.'* Using the *Learning Jazz Language* handbook and CD, lead the class in one of the activities; assign a task for homework.
4. *Playing Exam.* Student will play and improvise on a tune of their choice at the end of semester at the 'Jam Session.'
5. Keep a weekly log. Each week you must write about two things (each week's log will be handed in separately and turned in as a folio at the end of the semester):
 - a. A jazz recording. Listen to a famous jazz recording (one selection) from the listening list (other tunes can be substituted, but must be cleared by the instructor). Write a paragraph or two about what you've heard, what impressions you have, etc. Try to identify the era of jazz this recording is from and why.
 - b. Your reflections. Write about your impression(s) of the work we do and you as a jazz musician. Specific questions may be assigned throughout the semester.
6. **Major Project Opt. #1:** *Planning a Jazz Festival (major project).* The student will plan a jazz festival (on paper only, 3-5 pages long). Included will be a letter of invitation, schedule of performing groups (including warm-up time set-up and tear-down), sample score sheets, and a sample program including fictitious judges' bios.
7. **Major Project Opt. #2:** *Improvisation Class Syllabus (alternate major project).* Create a syllabus for a high school jazz improvisation class. Include a list of materials you will need (texts, instruments, amplifiers, audio playback, etc.), a course description for use in course catalogues complete with a list of objectives, a breakdown of content (by month or week) and the type(s) of assessment you will use (grading).

You must complete all of the assignments above (exception: choose to do number 6 OR number 7).

Great Jazz Artists Listening List:

Louis Armstrong	<i>Struttin' With Some Barbecue;</i>
Lester Young	<i>Lester Leaps In</i>
Coleman Hawkins	<i>Body and Soul</i>
Duke Ellington	<i>Mood Indigo; Take the A Train; In a Mellow Tone</i>
Count Basie	<i>One O'Clock Jump; Corner Pocket</i>
Benny Goodman	<i>Moonglow; Sing, Sing, Sing</i>
Charlie Parker	any tune Charlie Parker plays on
Dizzy Gillespie	any tune Dizzy Gillespie plays on
Thelonious Monk	<i>Misterioso</i>
Dexter Gordon	anything on the album <i>Go</i>
Miles Davis	anything on the album <i>Kind of Blue</i>
John Coltrane	anything from the albums <i>Giant Steps, A Love Supreme</i> or <i>My Favorite Things</i>
Sonny Rollins	anything from the album <i>Saxophone Colossus</i>
Clifford Brown	<i>Pent-up House</i>
Lee Morgan	<i>Sidewinder</i>
Freddie Hubbard	<i>Red Clay</i>
Wes Montgomery	<i>West Coast Blues</i>
Ornette Coleman	<i>Lonely Woman</i>