

MU 322.2 Improvisation

Dan DeChellis

h: 610-438-1552 c: 610-780-0892

(texting is preferred)

e-mail: sachimay@earthlink.net

Supplies / Tools / Texts:

Bring Instruments / Voices / Open-Minds / Enthusiasm / Creativity to every class!

“Freeplay” by Stephen Nachmanovitch

Objective:

The objective of this course is to encourage exploration of your chosen instrument beyond the written page and to develop a comfort level upon which you may explore musical Conversation or Free Improvisation: solo or within group settings. We will discuss a wide variety of musical styles and genres touching upon stylistic elements of each. The focus of this course is on breaking down any apprehensions a student may have towards improvising and allowing them to develop their own voice on their instrument. We will also discuss a variety of Contexts in which one may Improvise/Solo and how musicians are called upon to work in different genres: Jazz, Rock, Modern Composition, etc.

Requirements / Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on attendance, enthusiasm and participation. There will also be a required listening list in the library which students will be required to write reaction papers or perform improvisations based upon the listening. Students will not be judged or evaluated on their improvisatory skills, but by their willingness to try.

Course Outline:

The semester will be broken down into three sections: Conversation, Context and Composition.

Conversation will be primarily about playing and discussing fears and apprehension about improvising. We will break down into smaller trios / duos and perform short pieces for each other. There will be concepts and rules to these improvisation applied as to limit the possibilities causing the student to have fewer choices creating a more concentrated outcome.

Context will primarily consist of basic improvising rules within different genres of music. As well, we will discuss the different ways of listening to music and how this can influence your own playing.

Composition will consist of discussion and exploration of Graphic Notation and Aleatoric Music. Students will be required to compose / design their own Graphic piece of music and choose the ensemble which realize the score.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty, as

they are spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students are required to be familiar with copyright issues as well as the college policy on plagiarism.

This syllabus should be considered a flexible document. As the semester unfolds, revisions may occur.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.