Popular and Jazz Harmony I
Spring 2014 Syllabus

Course number: MUSI 4390-001
Location: Jazz Theory
Class meeting time: Monday/Wednesday
3:30-4:45
Instructor: Robert W. Brown
Instructor's office: CA 111
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: (361) 825-3648
E-Mail: Send via Blackboard Message!

Course Description

Popular and Jazz Harmony is a three credit hour class designed to develop comprehensive skills in harmony, rhythm and melody as applied to popular music and jazz idioms. Course work is designed to develop practical knowledge in music grammar, vocabulary and structure currently utilized in a variety of professional settings as well as improve aural skills. Curriculum is organized to assist professional musicians as well as music industry professionals.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will:
1. Have improved aural skills in recognizing rhythmic patterns.
2. Have improved aural skills in identifying discrete intervals and chords.
3. Learn basic chord construction and then progress to more advanced chord construction found in the jazz idiom.
4. Gain an understanding of basic chord substitutions.
5. Learn how to read contemporary notation symbols commonly found in “lead sheets”.
6. Become familiar with common chord progressions and forms found in a variety of popular and jazz genres.
7. Become familiar with basic voice leading principles used by professional performers and arrangers.
8. Acquire basic understanding of scale to chord relationships necessary to form harmonically relevant accompaniment and improvised solo lines.
Course Prerequisites

Students must complete MUSI 1311 and MUSI 1312 with at least a B average as a prerequisite to this class. Instructor may waive prerequisites for students with adequate real world musical experience.

Resources

Required Text:


Other Required Materials:
Recorded ear training exercises as well as other supplemental documents will be posted on Blackboard. Students will need access to these items on Blackboard.

Class Participation

Students are required to carefully read and practice assigned materials. Coursework includes a series of drills which comprise a class participation grade.

Classroom Decorum

- **Ask Questions.** If you do not understand something, please ask a question either in class, via email, or make an appointment with me.
- **Arrive on time.** Three late arrivals or early departures constitute one absence.
- **Stay focused** on class discussion and the music played in class.
- **Turn off cell phones**, pagers and other electronic devices during class. No texting or sending of emails in class.
- **W will cover a lot of ground fast this class, preparation is key to your success.**

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Orientation, Lecture: Intervals Aural training: Intervals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Interval Drill</td>
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</table>
Aural training: Intervals 2  
**Quiz 1**: Intervals (written and aural)  
Lecture: Basic Chord Construction

**Week 3**  
Chord Construction Drills  
Aural training: 7th chords  
**Quiz 2**: 7th chords (aural)

**Week 4**  
Lecture: Thirteen Chords  
Chord Construction Drills  
Aural training: extensions

**Week 5**  
**Quiz 3**: Chord Construction (written and aural)  
Lecture: Modes of major scale  
Aural training: major modes  
Drill: Modes of the major scale

**Week 6**  
**Quiz 4**: Major modes (written and aural)  
Lecture: Modes of harmonic minor scale  
Aural training: Harmonic minor modes

**Week 7**  
Drills: Modes of the harmonic minor scale  
Aural training: Major and harmonic minor modes  
**Mid Term Exam**: Comprehensive (written and aural)  
Lecture: Diatonic Relationships

**Week 8**  
Drill: Diatonic Relationships  
Lecture: Basic Substitutions  
Aural training: rhythmic patterns  
Drill: Basic Substitutions

**Week 9**  
**Quiz 5**: Diatonic Substitutions (written and aural)  
Lecture: Circle Patterns,  
Aural training: rhythmic patterns

**Week 10**  
Drill: Chord Progressions 1  
Aural training: Chord transcription  
Lecture: Stepwise chord progressions

**Week 11**  
Drill: Chord progressions 2  
**Quiz 6**: Chord progressions and rhythmic patterns  
Lecture: Voicing chords

**Week 12**  
Voicing Drills  
Aural training: voicing transcription  
Lecture: Chord-scale relationships (AKA key centers)

**Week 13**  
Drills: Chord-scale relationships  
Aural training: key centers
Quiz 7: Voicings & chord-scale relationships (written)
Lecture: Common Song Forms 1
Aural training: form
Lecture: Common Song Forms 2
Drill: Song composition
Aural training: form

Week 14

Week 15
Lecture: “Lead sheets” & contemporary notation
Drill: Notation
Quiz 8: Contemporary notation and form (written and aural)

Final Exam: Covers all material after Midterm, See final exam schedule for time and location.

Grading

Course assignments will be weighted as follows:

- 8 Quizzes (50 pts each) 400 pts
- Class Participation 200 pts
- Mid Term Exam 200 pts
- Final Exam 200 pts
- Total Points 1000 pts

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1000 pts</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899 pts</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-799 pts</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699 pts</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-599 pts</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend each class period. Since every class is essential, attendance is necessary for success. If you must miss class due to an illness or emergency, please call me, or leave a message on my voice mail prior to class. Tardiness will count as ½ an absence. Leaving early will count as ½ an absence.

After the 5th absence the final grade will drop one letter. After 6 absences, the final grade will be an automatic F. This is a music
department policy.

In the event that you are confronted with a genuine family emergency or serious personal health issue, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.

Please note: Playing evaluations are carried out within a small group setting, which require the participation of necessary class members. Any absence during these scheduled tests should be strongly avoided. If the situation arises where a student has a valid excuse for absence, schedule permitting, the instructor will attempt to reschedule.

The Fine Print

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeals: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

Disabilities Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
Syllabus Updates

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes.