

## MUJS 2360 Jazz Improvisation 2013 Syllabus

**MUJS 1361.001 M & W 2 – 2:50 / 1361.002 T & TH 3 – 3:50 (Room 262)**

Instructor: Rodney Booth

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Phone: 940 369-7640

office hours: Monday and Wednesday 10 – 11 am and 3- 4 pm (or by appointment)

### Learning objectives

- 1) To improve your ability to improvise by telling a story in a jazz style.
- 2) To improve your ability to sing jazz lines and rhythms.
- 3) To improve your ability to write down music you hear.
- 4) To improve your ability to hear and perform music you read.

### Required text

No required text this semester

### Evaluation

Test 1 (5%)

Test 2 (8%)

Test 3 (12%)

Test 4 (15%)

Test 5 (15%)

Test 6 (20%)

Final exam 25%

Total, 100%

A= 90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below  
Midterm and final exams will include an in-class portion and may include an Individual portion. Because of the size of the class, if there is an individual portion for the final it will happen during week 15. Every exam is comprehensive, which means it includes all of the course topics up to that point. The standard mathematical rounding procedure will apply to final grades. For example, 89.4 is a B, 89.5 is an A--unless you lose the round-up for attendance (read on).

## **Attendance policy**

Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. You may miss two class meetings with no penalty. If you miss three or four, you lose the round-up feature in the grading scale. If you miss five or more classes, you must drop the class or your final grade will be F. I expect you to arrive on time and to stay for the entire class. If you need to leave early, speak with me before class.

The only excused absences I will accept are:

- 1) those for university-sponsored activities, such as ensemble tours, which you must document in writing;
- 2) extended serious illness requiring a doctor's care, which you must document in writing. Ordinary "not feeling well" does not count as extended serious illness. If you are not present when the roster is passed around to sign at the start of each class, you are absent. Please make sure your phone won't ring during class, and please do not bring food or drink into class.

## **Course activities**

Each class will be a mix of playing, listening, singing, and transcribing. Bring a music manuscript notebook and a regular notebook to each class. On exam days, please bring a pencil.

## **Course topics**

We will study chord and scale relationships as well as playing tunes by ear. We will transcribe solos on the various tunes we work on including Blues in Bb, C Minor Blues, Satin Doll, Take the A train, Autumn Leaves, Perdido, Pent up House among others.

## **Professor's expectations of the students**

### **I expect you to: Keep a positive attitude**

- 1) take responsibility for your learning in this class
- 2) attend every class, arrive on time, and stay the entire time
- 3) arrive for your office appointments on time
- 4) work on the skills we're studying outside of class

## **What students can expect from the professor**

## **You can expect me to:**

- 1) treat every student with respect and the expectation that every student is capable of doing well in this class
- 2) begin and end class on time
- 3) allow time for questions in class
- 4) be prepared for class
- 5) to be available outside of class in the office, by email and by chat within Vista, and using AIM
- 6) to be willing to modify what we do in class in order to help you learn better

## **Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities that affect their work in this class are invited to speak with me privately about it.

## **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty means presenting only your own ideas as your own, and giving credit for the ideas of others when you use them in your academic work. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Students are expected to follow the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the course. Having someone else sign the roster for you is a form of academic dishonesty, and if this is detected you will be asked to drop the course or receive a final grade of WF or F.

## **Evaluation of the course**

The standard UNT evaluation will be done at the end of the course. If you have comments or suggestions for improving the course before then, please give them to me.

**This syllabus is subject to change with notice.**