Eastern Illinois University  
Revised Course Proposal  
MUS 3531, Jazz Improvisation III

1. Catalog Description
   a) MUS 3531
   b) Jazz Improvisation III
   c) 0-2-1
   d) S
   e) Jazz Improv III
   f) The detailed study of the characteristics and performance requirements of four types of jazz compositions: the blues, modal tunes, ballads, and contemporary. Emphasis will be placed on daily improvisation in class and solo transcription. Required of all students in the Jazz Studies Concentration.
   g) Prerequisite: MUS 2530 or permission of instructor
   h) Initial term to be offered: Spring 2005

2. Student Learning Objectives and Evaluation
   a) Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
      1. describe the harmonic structure of a blues form;
      2. perform characteristic examples of the melodic and rhythmic vocabulary of a blues form from memory;
      3. improvise competently in a blues form;
      4. describe the harmonic structure of modal tunes;
      5. perform characteristics of the melodic and rhythmic vocabulary of modal tunes from memory;
      6. improvise competently in modal tunes;
      7. describe the harmonic structure of ballads;
      8. perform characteristic examples of the melodic and rhythmic vocabulary of ballads from memory;
      9. improvise competently in ballads;
     10. describe the harmonic structure of contemporary compositions;
     11. perform characteristic examples of the melodic and rhythmic vocabulary of contemporary compositions from memory;
     12. improvise competently in contemporary compositions.
   b) Assessment of objective achievement for undergraduates includes the following:

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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Playing Tests (4) 25%</th>
<th>Transcriptions (4) 25%</th>
<th>Mid-term examination 25%</th>
<th>Final examination 25%</th>
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c) This is not a technology-delivered course.
d) This course is not numbered 4750-4999.
e) This course is not writing-active or writing-intensive.

3. Outline of the Course

a) This course will meet for 30 fifty-minute class periods over 15 weeks.

Week 1  Blues
Harmonic structure
Phrase length
Common embellishments

Week 2  Blues (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
The blues scale
Bebop devices applied to the blues

Week 3  Blues (continued)
Application of techniques to display a thorough blues vocabulary
Transcription due
Playing test

Week 4  Modal Composition
Harmonic structure
Common modes used, i.e., dorian, mixolydian, etc.

Week 5  Modal Composition (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
Terminal patterns

Week 6  Modal Composition (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
Non-terminal patterns
“Side slipping”

Week 7  Modal Composition (continued)
Application of techniques to build intensity
Transcription due
Playing test

Week 8  Ballad
Harmonic structure
Harmonic rhythm applied to tempo
Harmonic embellishment

Week 9  Ballad (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
Paraphrasing the original melody
The communicative effect tone quality

Week 10  Ballad (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
Bebop devices and “double-time” applied to ballads

Week 11  Ballad (continued)
Application of techniques to fully engage the listener
Transcription due
Playing test

Week 12  Contemporary Composition
Harmonic structure
Departure from the “standard”
Combination of modes with functional harmony
“Free jazz”

Week 13  Contemporary Composition (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
Pentatonic scales and patterns
Synthetic scales

Week 14  Contemporary Composition (continued)
Melodic and rhythmic vocabulary
Jazz fusion and popular styles

Week 15  Contemporary Composition (continued)
Application of techniques to build coherent improvisations for
contemporary compositions
Transcription due
Playing test

4. Rationale
a) Purpose and need: MUS 3531 will offer students interested in careers that involve
performing improvised jazz an opportunity to gain familiarity and understanding of four
types of jazz compositions: the blues, modal tunes, ballads, and contemporary
compositions. By studying recorded solos of jazz masters applying their harmonic,
rhythmic, and melodic vocabulary, the student will acquire the ability to improvise in
these very common types of compositions. This course will fill a specific need for the
Bachelor of Music Performance Option with Jazz Concentration.
This revision is necessary to broaden the scope of the class. It will include topics and require skills previously found in MUS 4530, which will no longer be offered.

b) Justification of level: MUS 3531 will be the third and final course in a three-semester sequence of jazz improvisation courses, and the prerequisite will be MUS 2530, Jazz Improvisation II.

c) Similarity to existing courses: This course will replace MUS 3530 and MUS 4530, which will both be deleted.

d) Impact on program: This course will be required in the Bachelor of Music Performance Option with Jazz Concentration and will be an elective in the Bachelor of Music Performance and Bachelor of Music Teacher Certification options.

5. Implementation
   a) This course may be assigned to Allan Horney or Sam Fagaly.
   b) There are no additional costs to students.

6. Community College Transfer
   A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

7. Date approved by the department: 2-26-04

8. Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 3-31-04

9. Date approved by CAA: 4/22/04