MUS 117 Jazz Theory Syllabus

General Information

Instructors Names
Prof. David Hay
Dr. Carol VanRandwyk

Contact Information and Availability
Preferred method of contact
Office Location CVR Room 109, DH Room 117
Office Hours TBA Posted on office door
Phone 616-234-4186
E-mail Addresses cvanrand@grcc.edu, dhay@grcc.edu

Course Information
MUS 117 Jazz Theory
A study of jazz music theory, including chord and scale construction and nomenclature; elementary principles of chord voicing and arrangements; chord/scale relationships; and blues, AABA and other song forms. Analysis of jazz solo transcription as well as basic keyboard skills will be emphasized, in addition to required listening to exceptional examples of standard jazz recordings and attending jazz concerts.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Recognize and be able to write all jazz scales—diatonic, modal, pentatonic, octatonic, whole tone, and super-imposed scales
2. Explain chord function and chord/scale relationships
3. Demonstrate blues progressions and voicings at a piano keyboard
4. Demonstrate major and minor ii-V-I voicings on the keyboard in 2, 3, and 4 voices
5. Provide written and/or verbal analysis of a jazz solo
6. Explain and demonstrate chord substitutions
7. Notate and demonstrate jazz rhythm changes.
8. Explain and demonstrate fourth voicings, extended tertian voicings and basic harmonization techniques
9. Construct jazz bass lines

Required Materials
The Real Book, Volume 1 Ordered at the GRCC bookstore

Recommended Skills and Prerequisites
MUS 114, MUS116, and MUS122 are prerequisites of MUS117. In other words, music reading and music notation skills, knowledge of modulation, secondary functions, aural perception and music dictation capability.
Section Policies

Attendance Policy
Since this course meets just one evening a week, attendance is expected at all class meetings. One absence will not affect your grade. Other absences without a documentable excuse (illness, death in family, etc.) will lower your grade by 4%.

Grading Procedure
Performance-based assessments for jazz scales, jazz chord voicings, and jazz progressions on the piano keyboard or major instrument: 30% of semester grade

Written assignments involving jazz voicings, jazz transpositions, jazz scales, transcriptions, arrangements and progressions: 30% of semester grade

Project and/or presentation involving theoretical analysis of a jazz composition: 10% of semester grade

Mid-term exam 10%

Comprehensive final exam: 20% of semester grade

Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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Your lowest score in performance based assessments and in written assignments will be dropped.

Late Assignment Policy
Assignments more than two weeks late will not be accepted.

Weekly Schedule

Jan. 12  ii-V-I’s in jazz charts. Two-note voicings of ii-V-Is in major and minor keys. Introduction to four-note voicings of ii-V-Is in major and minor keys.

Jan. 19  Modal scales to be used with ii-V-Is in major keys. The use of octatonic scale with V7.

Jan. 26 Tritone substitution use and voicings. Patterns within the half-tone/whole-tone (octatonic) scale.

Feb. 2  Minor iio-V-I’s in four voices. Modes of harmonic minor or natural minor.

Feb. 9  Interchangeability of V7b9 and viio7/V. Other chord/scales relationships.
Feb. 16 Blues progressions and voicings. Analysis of blues tunes and AABA tunes. Review.

Feb. 23 Mid-term exam

Weekly Schedule continued

March 2-8 Mid-winter break

March 9 Listening and transcription.

March 16 Rhythmic concepts. Swing in slow and fast tempos.

March 23 Counting/playing 3 against 2 and vice versa.

March 30 Counting/playing 3 against 4 and vice versa.

April 6 Fourth (quartal) voicings, three-note voicings

April 13 Altered voicings. Analysis.

April 20 Final Exam

**College Policies**

**GRCC Email and Course Communications**

Students are responsible for all communications sent via Blackboard and to their GRCC email account. GRCC student email can be accessed through [Student Email](http://email.grcc.edu) and Blackboard at [Blackboard](http://bb.grcc.edu).

**Disability Support Services**

Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations must be registered with the [Disability Support Services Office (DSS)](http://www.grcc.edu/academic-support/dss) in Room 368 of the Student Center. You may contact DSS at (616) 234-4140 for more information. Once you are registered with the DSS Office, you will receive an [Accommodations Agreement](http://www.grcc.edu/academic-support/dss) to present to me to verify your registration. Please see me as soon as possible so we may have a private conversation to discuss accommodations.

**Student Code of Conduct**

All GRCC students are held accountable to the Student Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations pertaining to academic honesty (including cheating and plagiarism), classroom conduct, and general conduct. The Code can be found in full at [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.grcc.edu/academic-support/dss).

*Add course/instructor specific implications of code violations*

**Changes to the Syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Blackboard Announcement, or through GRCC e-mail.