

**MUS 251 • Jazz Fundamentals**  
UNLV  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Examination of jazz harmonic practices, including basic chord progressions and extensions, chord scales and substitutions, reharmonization and ear training exercises.

So what is Jazz? How would you define this music? Can it be categorized? What makes this music so unique? It's everywhere! But you have to use your ears...

How many of you know what the Blues Scale is?

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- The Student will define basic jazz harmony and theory
- The Student will characterize scales types; arpeggio's and extension's
- The Student will implement all knowledge through ALL 12 keys ALL the time
- The Student will analyze how to listen
- The Student will demonstrate the ability to transcribe
- The Student will perform sight reading
- The Student will formulate Jazz improvisational language through the concepts of Sound, Time, & Ideas
- The Student will synthesize through Imitation, Assimilation and Innovation

**LECTURE CONTENT**

- A. What is the relationship between scales & chords
- B. The Elements of Music found in Improvisation; i.e. Jazz
- C. How to Listen
- D. Transcription Techniques
- E. Beyond the Classroom

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGIES**

- Lecture
- Group Discussion
- Group Playing Participation
- Audio & Video Presentations
- In Class Activities & Participation
- Listening Assignments

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

- Required Out-of-class Practicing & Listening
- Required In-class Participation, Practice & Commitment to Explore the unknown Musically
- Weekly Homework will be assigned (late assignments will not be accepted)
- Four transcription assignments
- Two listening assignments – opinion based

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR *MyUNLV* EMAIL & PERSONAL EMAIL REGULARLY!!!!**

## **TEXT**

Alfred's *"Essentials of Jazz Theory, Complete 1-3: Book & CD"* by Shelton G. Berg (Alfred Publishing Co.) Other various handouts, recordings and other material to be handed out IN CLASS as needed.

## **GRADING**

- Attendance & Participation = 90 points
- Assignments & Quizzes = 120 points
- Exams = 45 points each (90 points total)

### **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 300**

A = 300 - 271 points equals 90-100%

B = 270 - 241 points equals 80-89%

C = 240 - 211 points equals 70-79%

D = 210 - 181 points equals 60-69%

F = 180 - 0 points below 59%

### **Make-ups**

**Tests may only be made up for exceptional circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency) & only if the student has contacted the instructor PRIOR to the start of our class session. Additionally, the instructor reserves the right to refuse a makeup exam.**

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## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Week 1**

*Monday 8/29* – introduction; discuss syllabus; questionnaire; listen

## **Week 2**

*Monday 9/5* – **NO CLASS – LABOR DAY** – **Assignment:** please read and review the attached email handout, Units 1-3 out of the 'Essentials of Jazz Theory' book; start working on the Position # 1 & # 2 right and left hand piano voicings for ii-V-I's in all 12 keys; FIND YOUR SOLO FOR YOUR TRANSCRIPTION; listen

## **Week 3**

*Monday 9/12* – answer Transcription questions; in class, compose a simple melody over one chord; read and play through Modes handout; review 3rds & 7ths and their resolutions; hand out Lessons 32-34; ear training; listen

## **Week 4**

*Monday 9/19* – **\*\*Transcription # 1 due\*\*** (4 measures); review how Dominant 7ths resolve; review scale & arpeggio types; how to create an idea; ear training; listen

## **Week 5**

*Monday 9/26* – talk about Transcription assignment; answer Listening Assignment questions; idea creations; longer phrases; simple extensions; ear training; listen

## **Week 6**

*Monday 10/3* – **\*\*Listening Assignment # 1 due\*\***/**\*\*Review for Mid-term\*\***; answer any new questions about your Transcription assignment; ear training; listen

## **Week 7**

*Monday 10/10* – **\*\*Mid-term test\*\***/**\*\*Transcription # 2 due\*\*** (8 measures)

## **Week 8**

*Monday 10/17* – **NO CLASSES** – *Presidential Debate on Campus* – *your assignment is to write a one paragraph, typed, paper using musical terms and vocabulary describing the consonance and/or dissonance reflecting on*

*each of the candidate's personalities, statements and beliefs. This is opinion based. DUE ONE WEEK FROM TODAY.*

**Week 9**

*Monday 10/24* – go over mid-term; talk about the Debate assignment; review idea creation and longer phrases; review simple extensions; introduce complex extensions; ear training; sight reading; listen

**Week 10**

*Monday 10/31* – answer any new questions about your Transcription assignment; ear training; sight reading; listen

**Week 11**

*Monday 11/7* – **\*\*Transcription # 3 due\*\*** (16 measures); beyond the Classroom; ear training; sight reading; listen

**Week 12**

*Monday 11/14* – transcription help; answer any questions about your Listening assignment; ear training; sight reading; listen

**Week 13**

*Monday 11/21* – *Thanksgiving Break – no assignment* (you should listen to something)

**Week 14**

*Monday 11/28* – **\*\*Listening Assignment # 2 due\*\***/**\*\*Review for Final\*\***; answer any new questions about your Transcription assignment; ear training; sight reading; listen

**\*\*Transcription # 4 due\*\*** (32 measures) DUE AT FINAL MEETING DEC. 12

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**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

### Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is

[https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Any other class specific information**—(e.g., absences, make-up exams, status reporting, extra credit policies, plagiarism/cheating consequences, policy on electronic devices, specialized department or college tutoring programs, bringing children to class, policy on recording classroom lectures, etc.)