

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** MUS. 124 **TITLE:** Jazz Improvisation I
Units: 2.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 16.0-18.0 Lecture hours; 48.0-54.0 Lab hours; and 32.0-36.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only
Recommended Preparation:
 Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848 or ESL 400.
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
Degree Credit
Transfer credit: CSU
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
Catalog Description:
 This is an introductory course designed to apply the study of beginning techniques of rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic improvisation in the jazz performance idiom.
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
 1. Identify major seventh, dominant seventh, minor seventh, half diminished, and suspended dominant chords.
 2. Harmonically analyze jazz songs and chord progressions.
 3. Critique and analyze improvisational techniques used on jazz recordings.
 4. Lab: Demonstrate jazz theory as applied instrumentally or vocally.
 5. Improvise in a modal style.
 6. Perform techniques for constructing original melodies.
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Identify major seventh, dominant seventh, minor seventh, half diminished, and suspended dominant chords.
 2. Critique and analyze improvisational techniques used on jazz recordings.
 3. Demonstrate jazz theory as applied instrumentally or vocally.
 4. Harmonically analyze jazz songs and chord progressions.
 5. Improvise in a modal style.
 6. Perform techniques for constructing original melodies.
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 1. Major Key Jazz Theory
 - a. Major Scales
 - b. Modes
 - c. Diatonic Triads
 - d. Diatonic 7th Chords
 2. Chord Symbols and Nomenclature
 3. Harmonic Analysis
 - a. Roman numeral chord function labeling
 4. Modal Improvisation
Lab Content:
 1. Collective Improvisation
 - a. Modes
 - b. Diatonic Triads
 - c. Diatonic 7th Chords
 2. Chord symbols and nomenclature
 3. Modal Improvisation
7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**
 Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Critique
- E. Directed Study
- F. Discussion
- G. Observation and Demonstration

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Write out all 15 major scales and their corresponding diatonic triads.

Write out all 15 major scales and their corresponding diatonic 7th chords.

Write out all of the modes of the major scale in 15 keys.

Complete a written analysis of assigned jazz selections using appropriate chord symbols and nomenclature, including Roman numeral symbols and chord functioning label.

Reading Assignments:

Read document on Song Melody. Prepare a rhythmic and melodic interpretation of a jazz standard melody.

Read document on Diatonic 7th chords. Write out the system on 15 major keys.

Other Outside Assignments:

Transcribe an improvised solo from a standard jazz selection.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Final Class Performance
- F. Homework
- G. Lab Activities
- H. Oral Presentation
- I. Quizzes

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible software includes:

- A. iRealPro. Technimo LLC, 8.0.2 ed.

iReal Pro is an easy-to-use tool to help musicians of all levels master their art. The app simulates a real sounding band that can accompany the student as they practice, and allows the student to collect chord charts from standard jazz literature.

Origination Date: October 2017
Curriculum Committee Approval Date: February 2018
Effective Term: Fall 2018
Course Originator: Michael Galisatus