

**College of San Mateo  
Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** MUS. 125    **TITLE:** Jazz Improvisation II

**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

**Prerequisite:** MUS. 124 or demonstration through audition of intermediate level jazz improvisation skills.

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

This is an intermediate level course designed to apply the study of intermediate 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, minor, diminished, augmented, suspended 7th chords and their extensions.
2. Transcribe intermediate jazz solos and their harmonic structures.
3. Critique and analyze advanced improvisational techniques used on jazz recordings.
4. Demonstrate intermediate and advanced jazz theory as applied instrumentally and vocally.
5. Improvise in a modal and diatonic style.

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify major, minor, diminished, augmented, suspended 7th chords and their extensions.
2. Transcribe intermediate jazz solos and their harmonic structures.
3. Critique and analyze advanced improvisational techniques used on jazz recordings.
4. Demonstrate intermediate and advanced jazz theory as applied instrumentally and vocally.
5. Improvise in a modal and diatonic style.

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Harmonic and Melodic Minor Jazz Theory
  - a. Modes of the ascending melodic minor
  - b. Diatonic Triads of the ascending melodic minor scale
  - c. Diatonic 7th Chords of the ascending melodic minor scale.
2. Chord Symbols and Nomenclature
3. Intermediate/Advanced Harmonic Analysis
  - a. Intermediate/Advanced Roman numeral chord function labeling
4. Diatonic Improvisation

**Lab Content:**

1. Performance
  - a. Harmonic and Melodic Minor improvisations
  - b. Diatonic 7th chords and their extensions
  - c. Triadic Improvisation
  - d. Upper structure triadic improvisations
  - e. Improvised bass lines
  - f. Solo with Rhythm Section
2. Recording, transcription, and evaluation of one's own solo improvisations

**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:**

Complete a written analysis of assigned advanced jazz selections using appropriate chord symbols and nomenclature, including Roman numeral symbols and chord functioning label. Write out the chord/scale for V7#11 in 15 keys.

**Reading Assignments:**

Read document on phrase lengths and prepare an improvisation that demonstrates various phrase lengths. Read document on guide tones and approach notes. Perform approach notes into each chord tone throughout the song form.

**Other Outside Assignments:**

Individual practice outside of class and listening requirements. Transcribe improvised solo of 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

#### 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible software includes:

- A. iReal Pro. 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.

Other:

- A. Instructor Handouts.

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