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**Mus 1571/1572 Jazz Perf. Tech. - Piano (1 or 2 credits)**

**Course Description**

Study at this level will reflect a rigorous balance of technical advancement, repertoire depth, and an integrated academic component. As a prerequisite to this class students should read at a fundamental level and have basic piano technique.

**Expected Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives**

On completing study of Jazz piano at the 0 level the student will be able to:

**Musicianship and Performance**

1. Display basic hand ear coordination at the keyboard by way of sing along improvisation using a limited choice of notes.
2. Sightread eighth note syncopated rhythms.
3. Fluently play triads and sevenths chords though all keys through the circle of descending 5ths.
4. By ear extemporize arrangements to simple folk tunes.
5. Read and perform songs from a lead sheet.
6. Play ~15 songs from the 0 level Instrumental Jazz Repertoire List.
7. Play along with the Jamey Aebersold tracks for most of the songs from the 0 level IJRL.
8. Play and sing the blues in a solo “boogie woogie” style.
9. Participate in a select ensemble and “sit in” at the jam session.

**Critical Understanding**

9. Succinctly explain an arrangement to a band and then lead the group’s execution of the song.
10. Say what the form of the song is, the key, the style and cite a recorded version which has been used as a reference.

**Readings** – suggested readings on page 5 of *Steps to the Real Book*.

**Department of Music Performance Study Attendance Policy**

Lessons per semester = 13

Faculty are not obligated to schedule make-up lessons for those missed due to student absences, either excused or unexcused, (including illness, vacation, etc.). Excused absences can include religious holidays, poor health, (with a note from the health center or other medical professional), family emergency, or other events determined in advance by the faculty. There will no negative impact on a student’s grade for excused absences.

In the event of instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled.

Faculty and students should agree upon the best means of communicating attendance information.

If a student registers after the first (or second) scheduled lesson, that lesson (or lessons) will not be taught, nor count against the student’s grade or attendance.

An instructor may substitute one instructor-led event for a lesson, such as a studio recital or workshop.

**Unexcused absences will effect a semester grade in the following manner:**

**-One unexcused absence – the impact on the semester final grade will be at the discretion of the instructor.**

**-Two unexcused absences – the grade will be lowered by one full grade (ex. from A to B)**

**-Each subsequent absence – lowers the grade one incremental step (ex. from B to B-)**

**General Lesson Protocol**

Students are expected to attend every lesson having all printed materials and a pencil. Be a few minutes early and be well-prepared.

**Course Requirements**

**Repertoire**

1 credit lesson – Minimum of four tunes selected from 0 level Instrumental Jazz Repertoire List. Ability to improvise using concepts appropriate to level. Accompanying exercises as appropriate.

2 credit lesson – Minimum of eight tunes selected from 0 level Instrumental Jazz Repertoire List. Accompanying exercises as appropriate.

**Texts** - *Steps to the Real Book* (free from instructor's website JamesLevyMusic.com); *The Real Book* Hal Leonard, 6th ed.; *A New Approach Volume 1*, Jamey Aebersold; recordings as directed by the instructor.

**Listening/video assignment** – at the bottom of [www.jameslevymusic.com/MP3Tree.htm](http://www.jameslevymusic.com/MP3Tree.htm)

**Jam Session** – Regular attendance at and participation in the jam session (Fridays noon - 2pm in room B-120) is expected of all students studying Jazz Performance Techniques. This is a performance event. You must know your tune(s), and have them ready for a complete performance, with all the preparation that is required to achieve that end. Students should attend at least one professional jazz performance per semester.

### **Grading Policy**

Only a student who has made truly excellent progress will be given an A. In this studio to earn an A you must engage in the study of piano and jazz performance at both the technical and intellectual level. Your lessons will be successful in direct relationship to the amount and quality of time spent practicing and preparing for your lesson each week.

All students will receive 4 formal evaluations during the semester, each counting for 25% of your final grade.

This first evaluation will take place

- for 1st semester students, the 3rd or 4th lesson, it will be based on your mastery of the basic 5-part practice plan.
- for 2nd and 3rd semester students, the 2nd or 3rd lesson, it will be based on your performance of previous semesters' work.

The last three evaluations will take place on the 6th, 9th and final lessons and will be based on 1) performance of circle of 5ths exercises 2) performance of new tunes learned from the repertoire list, generally with Aebersold play alongs and 3) performance of solo material, especially the 12-bar blues.

100% of your grade is given by the instructor, based on the above criteria.

For students playing a performance exam for admission to 100 level study, 100% of your grade is given by the instructor, based on the above criteria. Your exam at this juncture is only for advancement and receives no grade. Each unexcused absence may result in the deduction of 1/2 letter grade.

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### **Academic Integrity**

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." For the remainder of the code, see: "<http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>"

### **Support for Students Outside the Classroom**

#### **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)**

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: "<http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>"

#### **UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300**

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:

crisis and emergency mental health consultations

confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals

### **Security**

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.