

Music 166
ELEMENTS OF JAZZ I
 Class Syllabus

Rick Helzer, Professor of Music and Associate Director of Jazz Studies

Office phone number: 594-4468 (Voice Mail)

E-mail: rhelzer@mail.sdsu.edu

Office #238, Music Bldg. (Office hours determined every semester)

Class meeting times and location found in Student Handbook

Prerequisites: Music 155A, 156A, 157A--155B, 156B, 157B and/or successful completion of short qualifying entrance theory and ear training exam given during the first class meeting.

Objectives: It is the purpose of this class to introduce the student to the creative language of jazz via the study of chord voicings, harmonic and melodic analysis, ear training, and improvisational concepts. Contrafact compositions in the be bop style will be used for exposition.

Students will be expected to demonstrate theoretical and applicative knowledge in areas "A" through "D" listed under Lecture Topics and area "A" in Other Class Activities.

Lectures

- A) Chord Structures
 - 1) Voicings from basic triads to fully extended "stacked" position chords
 - 2) 7th and 9th chords in inversion, closed and open position
- B) Harmonic Analysis Methodology
 - 1) Significance of the circle of 5ths
 - 2) Diatonic Harmony
 - 3) Chromatically Enhanced Tonal Harmony
- C) Analysis Procedures
 - 1) Form analysis
 - 2) Harmonic analysis
 - 3) Melodic motif analysis
 - 4) Chord/scale relationships
- D) Improvisational Melody Generating Concepts
 - 1) Analysis of specific principles through short examples
 - 2) Analysis of composed solos and solo transcription examples

Other Class Activities

- A) Ear Training
 - 1) Simple interval and chord recognition and spelling
 - 2) Cadence recognition and dictation
 - 3) Melodic dictation
- B) In-class listening to recordings
- C) In-class demonstration of improvisation concepts
(Read about attendance policy on page vii.)

Homework

- A) Periodic homework assignments on lecture topics*
- B) Weekly ear training transcription assignments*
(Read about specific late homework penalties policy on page vi.)

Projects [All page numbers refer to the course text. See page iii of this syllabus]

- A) Piano Requirements
[Check Piano Requirements, pgs. 12-15]
- B) Technique (primary instrument)
[Scale Requirements, pg. 11]
- C) Repertoire (primary instrument)
 - 1) Selection of two tunes from the Improvisation Play Along Lead Sheets found on pages 110 through 153 that includes the following:
 - a) One selection chosen from Basic Blues 1, Basic Blues 2, Basic Be Bop Blues or Bop Blues 1.

The student will be required to play the composed solo melody and improvise on the chord changes of one of the blues tunes listed in subsection “a.”

- b) One selection from Publish or Perish, Strayhorn's Strains or Tale of the Ornithologists.

The student will be required to play the song melodies of two of the pieces, the composed solo and improvise on the chord changes of one of the tunes listed in subsection “b.”

- c) Selection of one tune from the Repertoire List.

The student will be required to play the melody from memory and improvise on the chord changes of the piece from memory.

The instructor advises the student to seriously take time to learn the composed solos that are included with the tunes in subsection “b” to get a good sense of improvised Be Bop melodic syntax.

Individual evaluation appointments will be assigned for projects A, B and C with the instructor on dates selected each semester.

The appointment times will be assigned by random numerical drawing. If you miss class, you will have to pick one of the remaining appointment dates on a first come, first serve basis.

Important Notice: If a student fails to come to his or her assigned appointment without prior notification and rescheduling with the instructor, that student will **forfeit 8% of his or her total grade.**

QUIZZES AND TESTS

A) There will be periodic ear training quizzes during the course of the semester. There will be a one-class day advance notice on these quizzes. There are no make-ups for these quizzes.

B) Midterm Exam dates selected each semester

- 1) Ear Training
- 2) Theory Midterm

C) Final exam dates selected each semester

- 1) Ear Training
- 2) Theory Final

Grading

A	100%-93%	A-	92%-90%		
B+	89%-87%	B	86%-83%	B-	82%-80%
C+	79%-77%	C	76%-73%	C-	72%-70%
D+	69%-67%	D	66%-63%	D-	62%-60%
F	59% and below				

Course Component Grading Percentages

Theory homework	13%
Ear Training homework	13%
Projects	
Repertoire	11%
Technique (Scales)	11%
Piano	10%
Ear Training Quizzes	11%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	16%

Policy on Cheating

Anyone caught cheating on the quizzes, midterm or final will fail the entire course in accordance with university policy.

REQUIRED TEXTJazz Theory and Its Creative Application, Part I

A textbook that includes Lecture Topics, Improvisation Play Along Lead Sheets, theory homework assignments, ear training homework assignments and ear training quizzes.

Jazz Theory and Its Creative Application, Part I, Compact Disk

An audio CD that includes ear training assignments, accompaniment tracs for Piano Performance Project II (on page 15 of the text), and all Improvisation Play Along rhythm section tracs.

(Rick Helzer) [©Rewakening Music/Mozena Publishing]

Estimated cost is between \$40.00-\$45.00 and will include an audio CD.

The instructor will provide a compact disc that contains the ear training homework, transcription project, lecture topic audio examples, Piano Project II sequences and play along sequences.

The text can only be acquired by mail order and payment will be made by credit card.

Orders will be placed online through the publisher' website at:

<http://www.mozenapublishing.com/>

Look for "Student Orders--Click here" and follow the prompts.

If you are not able to order online, you can order by phone at:

1(800) 444-8398

When contacting Mozena Publishing, provide the following information:

- 1) University name: SDSU
- 2) Course Name: Music 166, Elements of Jazz I
- 3) Text Name: Jazz and Its Creative Application, Part I
- 4) Author's Name: Professor Rick Helzer

Recommended Materials

Learning and memorizing jazz repertoire is an essential professional requirement. A jazz fake book provides a good repository of important repertoire. Students and professionals commonly use the fake books listed below.

The New Real Book (Vol. I), Sher Music Co.

The New Real Book (Vol. II), Sher Music Co.

The New Real Book (Vol. III), Sher Music Co.

The Standards Real Book, Sher Music Co.

The All-Jazz Real Book, Sher Music Co.

The Latin Jazz Real Book, Sher Music Co.

Late Penalty Policies for Homework Assignments, Theory Midterm and
Theory Final

* If theory and ear training assignments, or the theory midterm, are one calendar day late, a 5% penalty will be incurred. If an assignment or theory midterm is turned in two calendar days late, a 10% penalty will be given. If any of these items are three calendar days late, the grade given will be an F with "0" points.

Specific Directions for Turning in Late Assignments

Assignments turned in one day late from a Monday due date must be turned in on the following day (Tuesday) to the music department office, and must be date stamped by office personnel. They will, in turn, put them in my mailbox. Assignments turned in one day late from a Wednesday due date must, in like manner, be turned in the following day (Thursday) with a date stamp.

Assignments turned in two days late from a Monday due date can be turned in on the following Wednesday class meeting.

Assignments turned in two days late from a Wednesday due should be turned into the music department office on the following Monday and be date stamped.

Remember, the music department office is closed on Fridays.

**The theory final exam must be turned in on the assigned due date. Unlike the assignments and theory midterm, there are no grace periods.

Attendance Policy

Good attendance is critical to a student's success in this type of sequential class. I will record attendance each class day, starting from the second week of class. Each student is allowed three absences during the course of the semester without penalty. Any absences after that will incur a 1% penalty from the total grade (per absence).

Exception will only be given for verifiable family, health or transportation emergencies.

<p><u>Note:</u> To advance to Elements of Jazz II (Music 266) a student must receive a letter grade of no less than C.</p>
--