COURSE OUTLINE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Dr. Kevin Watson
REHEARSAL TIMES:
- Tuesdays: 7:00-9:00 pm, MB 27
- Thursdays: 7:00-9:00 pm, MB 27
OFFICE: TC 116
PHONE: 519.661.2111 x 85896
EMAIL: kwatso54@uwo.ca
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE PREREQUISITE

Permission of the Artistic Director. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Western University Jazz Ensemble performs music that encompasses virtually all styles and eras of jazz, encompassing classic repertory from the jazz canon as well as music from the best contemporary writers in the idiom. The ensemble’s mission is to provide students with the performance skills and pedagogical knowledge needed for successful careers as creative jazz artist-teachers.

This ensemble seeks to achieve musical excellence in a professional environment with high expectations. Each player’s attitude and preparation are essential to the success of the group. Therefore, individuals are expected to take ownership for their parts and share in the responsibility for their section’s performance. In order to strengthen the ensemble’s performance level and to provide more opportunities for individual players, part assignments may rotate.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and perform common jazz chord types in all keys
2. Identify and perform chord scales associated with various jazz chords
3. Perform, compose, and improvise characteristic melodic patterns over common jazz chord progressions in a variety of styles
4. Perform from memory a number of jazz melodies
5. Identify formal structures common in jazz repertoire
6. Identify and perform key elements of swing, bebop, bossa nova, samba, rock, and Afro-Cuban musical styles
7. Describe and perform common jazz expressive devices such as falls, gliss, rips, bends, ghost notes, muted notes, etc.
8. Identify historically important jazz performers/groups
9. Identify historically important jazz composers/arrangers
10. Perform seminal compositions of the jazz repertoire, in addition to contemporary works of active composers/arrangers
COURSE MATERIALS

All performers must have access to a tuner and a metronome. The use of apps or software for creating play-along recordings (e.g., iRealb Pro, Band in a Box) and transcription aids (e.g., Amazing Slow Downer, Capo) is strongly recommended. Players are expected to bring their instrument, music, music stand, all necessary mutes/equipment and a pencil to every rehearsal. Music will be signed out from the CBO library or distributed at rehearsals. Music should be kept in a folder. Be aware that the library will charge a hefty replacement fee for lost parts (e.g., 30 charts x $70 per chart = you get the picture).

OWL COURSE SITE

https://owl.uwo.ca

CONCERT DRESS

Women: Dress or skirt (knee length or longer) or black pants, dress blouse, and black dress shoes
Men: Dark (black or navy) suit, collared white dress shirt, and dress tie. Black dress shoes and black socks.

COURSE POLICIES

In order to reach our peak performance, a number of activities must take place.

1. Recordings related to the repertoire will be placed on reserve in the library or on the course OWL page, and ensemble members are expected to study these recordings carefully and thoroughly.
2. Individual parts must be learned outside of the ensemble rehearsal times.
3. Section leaders are responsible for organizing sectionals. A regularly scheduled time is strongly recommended. In consultation with the director, section leaders should plan specific objectives for each meeting, ensuring that the schedule and location are clear to all section members. Section members are encouraged to share their ideas and observations.

ATTENDANCE & EVALUATION

Due to the soloistic nature of much of the repertoire, and limited rehearsal time, the success of this ensemble greatly depends upon the preparation and regular attendance of every member. Students should regard rehearsals and concerts as professional environments, where 100% attendance is expected. Attendance and quality of participation determine whether you receive a credit for this ensemble. An unexcused absence will result in a review of your membership in the ensemble. A second unexcused absence will result in the loss of course credit.

Absences are only excused for the following three reasons:

1. Official school business that has been approved by the Director
2. Death in the student’s family
3. Severe illness of the student or a member of the student’s family

All other absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In the event of severe illness, the conductor must be notified by phone or email at least one hour before the rehearsal so that the rehearsal plan may be reorganized. Section leaders should also be notified. A substitute should be found and arrangements should be made to have the music dropped-off prior to the rehearsal.
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Conduct
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness
The University’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf, states that “in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.” Such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the instructor (in Music, this means the Associate Dean, Undergraduate). It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Statement on Mental Health
Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Disability Services for Students
http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/

If you need individual accommodations to meet course objectives because of a documented disability, please make an appointment with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work.

Learning Skills Services
SDC's Learning Skills Counsellors provide information and support to help Western students achieve academic success.
http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/