INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Dr. Kevin Watson
COURSE NUMBERS: MU1904, MU2904, MU3904, MU4904
REHEARSALS: Tuesdays & 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., iReal Pro, Band in a Box) and helping with transcription (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).

CONCERT DRESS

Option 1: Dark (black or navy) suit, collared white dress shirt, and dress tie. Black dress shoes and black socks.

Option 2: Dress or skirt (knee length or longer) or black pants, dress blouse, and black dress shoes

COURSE POLICIES

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

- Recordings 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.
- Individual parts must be learned outside of the ensemble rehearsal times.
- 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 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 credit.

Absences are only excused for the following three reasons:

- Official school business that has been approved by the director
- Death in the student’s family
- 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.
substitute should be found and arrangements should be made to have the music dropped-off prior to the rehearsal.

**CONCERT SCHEDULE 2022-2023 (TENTATIVE)**

- Thursday November 24, 2022 @ 7:30 pm PDT
- Thursday January 26, 2023 @ 7:30 pm Wolf Hall
- Thursday February 16, 2023 @ 12:30 pm PDT
- Thursday March 16, 2023 @ 7:30 pm PDT

Please note that dates and events are subject to change. Ensemble members will be notified well in advance of any changes to the schedule.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):**

Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, 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 their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

**Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):**

In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean’s office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero.
Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean’s office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

**Academic Offences:**

Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. 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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

**Mental Health & Wellness**

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (https://www.uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

**Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.


**Contingency Plan**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for
students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

**Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661–3568.

**Evaluation Policy Exemption:**

This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.”