

MUSIC 1904/2904/3904/4904
WESTERN UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR : Dr. Kevin Watson
COURSE NUMBERS: MU1904, MU2904, MU3904, MU4904
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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 SCHEDULE 2023-2024 (TENTATIVE)

Friday October 13, 2023 @ 1:30 pm PDT (30 minute show for Ontario Band Association IHB)

Sunday, November 19th, 2023 @ 1:00 pm MB 227 (one hour rehearsal for Fall Preview Day)

Thursday November 23, 2023 @ 7:30 pm PDT

Thursday January 25, 2024 @ 7:30 pm Wolf Hall

Thursday February 8, 2024 @ 7:30 pm PDT (w/ guest artist Rodney Whitaker)

Thursday March 21, 2024 @ 7:30 pm PDT

Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 @ 1:00 pm MB 227 (one hour rehearsal for Spring Open House)

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

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. A substitute should be found and arrangements should be made to have the music dropped-off prior to the rehearsal.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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

Academic Consideration for Student Absence:

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty Academic Counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

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

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

Academic Consideration for Missing Work

In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

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.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

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.