Harmony and Improvisation I

University of North Carolina at Asheville

Fall 2015 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Brian Felix
Course Number: MUSC 293001 or 293002
Credits: 2
Class Meets: M/W 9-9:50 am or 10-10:50 am
Classroom: Lipinsky 013
Email: bfelix@unca.edu
Phone: 828.250.2311
Office: 117A Lipinsky
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:
Common keyboard voicings and improvisational techniques in various musical styles, with an emphasis on harmonic theory and contemporary chord symbol nomenclature. Students will first focus on expanding their knowledge of chords and scales so that they have fluency working at the keyboard. Once these basics are mastered, students will begin learning techniques of improvisation and the specifically idiomatic traits of certain keyboard styles, including rock, blues, funk, jazz and classical.

Course Objectives:
By taking this course, each student will:
• Develop a mastery of major chords and scales
• Learn the practical techniques to perform in a variety of keyboard styles
• Learn to improvise at the keyboard
• Gain familiarity with charts based on modern chord symbol nomenclature
• Create original interpretations of selected pieces

Textbook
• The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios & Cadences by Palmer, Manus and Lethco

Rules, Regulations & Notes
• It is expected that you already have basic keyboard skills, including a knowledge of major/minor chords and scales. It is also expected that you can read easy piano music.
• **Attendance** is required. You are allowed two absences for any reason. After that, you are allowed two additional emergency absences that require appropriate documentation. After that, each absence will lower your **final grade** by two points.
• Please arrive on time and stay for the full class. Each tardy or early-out will count as half an absence.
• **You must provide your own headphones** and bring them for use in every class. If you have standard headphones with an 1/8 inch plug, you will also need to purchase a 1/4 inch adapter.
• All of the music for this class will be posted on Moodle. You will be responsible for making your own print-outs if necessary. Please have a OneCard containing money so that you can print at the UNCA computer labs.
• You must have a **metronome** or metronomic type device (such as a smartphone with a metronome application).
• There will be no eating or drinking in class.
• Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class.
• **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** - University of North Carolina at Asheville is committed to making courses, programs and activities accessible to students with documented disabilities. Students requiring reasonable accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office by providing current diagnostic documentation. All information provided will remain confidential. For more information please contact the Office of Academic Accessibility at (828)232-5050 or academicaccess@unca.edu, visit them in the OneStop Student Services Center or at their website https://oaa.unca.edu/.

**Performance Exams/Written Assignments**
• 90% of your grade in this class will be determined by performance exams and written assignments.
• There will be several of these throughout the semester.
• Even though you will be spending a substantial amount of time working independently, there will be definite due dates for all performance exams and assignments.
• Performance exams can be made up **only if I am notified beforehand of an emergency conflict**. I will consider these on a case-by-case basis.

**Method of Evaluating Student Performance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance Exams/Written Assignments</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Grading Scale:**
- A = 93 – 100; A- = 90 – 92; B+ = 87 – 89; B = 83 – 86; B- = 80 – 82;
- C+ = 77 – 79; C = 73 – 76; C- = 70 – 72; D+ = 67 – 69; D = 60 – 66; F = 59 and below