

**JEFFERSON COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**MSC168**

**JAZZ IMPROVISATION I**

2 Credit Hours

Prepared by:  
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Revised Date: March 2010  
by  
Brad Madson

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Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean, Arts and Science Education

## MSC168 Jazz Improvisation I

### I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

- A. Prerequisite: Understanding of basic music theory and proficiency at playing a musical instrument.
- B. 2 semester hours credit
- C. Jazz Improvisation I introduce materials and practices in extemporaneous performance. Jazz Improvisation I introduces aural and analytical approaches in the standard jazz repertoire. (F)

### II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES / ASSESSMENT MEASURES

Students will gain knowledge of jazz improvisation through performance and analysis.	Regular classroom performance on instrument (s).
Students will aurally and intellectually gain skills pertaining to intervals, chord construction, jazz nomenclature, modes of the major, pentatonic, and blues scales.	Aural instruction involving harmonic progressions.
Students will extemporaneously perform basic jazz styles.	Individual and group interaction and performance.
Students will learn the fundamentals of solo construction.	Playing exams.

### III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- A. Discussion of extemporaneous playing.
- B. Introduction of jazz harmony: chord spellings, memorization techniques.
- C. Chord notation and function.
- D. Discussion of melodic approaches to improvisatory playing.
- E. Modal playing.
- F. Understanding basic harmonic, rhythmic, and melodic concepts in approaching the standard repertoire of jazz.

- G. Introduction of II-V-I progressions.
- H. Understanding of instrumental function in jazz improvisatory playing.
- I. Aural recognition of elementary chord progressions common to the jazz idiom.
- J. Analytical skills enabling harmonic understanding of simple chord progressions.
- K. Memorization techniques for standard jazz repertoire.

#### IV. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

There are no required textbooks for this class

#### V. REQUIRED MATERIALS (Student)

- A. Instrument
- B. Pencils and staff paper
- C. Blank CDs

#### VI. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

None

#### VII. METHOD OF EVALUATION (STUDENT)

- A. Daily performance examinations
- B. Written examinations
- C. Mid-term and Final playing exams
- D. Grading scale is as follows:
  - 90-100 A
  - 80-89 B
  - 70-79 C
  - 60-69 D
  - 50-59 F

#### VIII. ADA STATEMENT

Any statement requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-797-3000, ext. 169).

## IX. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with college policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College website [www.jeffco.edu/jeffco](http://www.jeffco.edu/jeffco) under Publications).