EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 3131 3.0 SECTION A
JAZZ COMP. & ARRANGING: SMALL ENSEMBLES
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides a study of jazz compositional techniques of the past and present through analysis, transcription and performance. Aims of the course are development of a basic craft and experimentation leading towards a more personal expression. Projects for small ensembles are required and read by members of the class.

Prerequisites: FA/MUSI 2501 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2200 6.00 or FA/MUSI 2201 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2202 3.00 and or permission of the course director.

A study of jazz compositional techniques of the past and present through analysis, transcription and performance. Aims of the course are development of a basic craft, and experimentation leading towards a more personal expression. Projects for small ensembles are required and read by members of the class.

Prerequisites: FA/MUSI2201 3.0, FA/MUSI2202 3.0 and FA/MUSI 2051 3.0, or permission of the course director.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elmes, Barry</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:belmes@yorku.ca">belmes@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Prerequisite: FA/MUSI 2201 3.0, 2202 3.0, 2051 3.0, or permission of the course director.

Course Consultation Hours: By appointment

Expanded Course Description: This course seeks to develop the art and craft of jazz composition, through analysis, transcription and performance. Students will create a series of compositions, based upon various approaches and techniques as discussed in class, and arrange their compositions for small jazz ensemble. Each class meeting will feature a lecture/discussion with recorded examples on a specific type of jazz composition.

Brief statement of purpose:
This course is designed to give the students the knowledge and practical skills required to create a range of jazz compositions that are expressive, practical (i.e., 'playable') and properly notated. While intended to function as a stand-alone course, MUSI 3131 will also serve to prepare the student for continued study in MUSI 3132 “Jazz Composition and Arranging: Large Ensemble”. This course is also intended to provide the student with a basic understanding of the craft of jazz composition: how various types of jazz compositions are conceived and constructed.

2. TOPICS AND CONCEPTS
**Course Text / Readings:** A variety of recorded jazz compositions will be played in class, with additional recordings suggested for further listening and analysis.

**Course Materials:** While students may choose to complete their assignments using conventional methods and materials (manuscript paper and pencil), students are strongly urged to purchase Sibelius music engraving software for this course.

3. **LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH EXAMPLES**

Brief list of specific learning objectives:
- to gain an awareness of the history and tradition of jazz composition for small ensemble;
- to develop practical knowledge in writing for specific jazz instruments (brass, woodwind, rhythm section, etc.);
- to gain a working knowledge of instrumental transpositions and effective ranges;
- to experience the benefits of hearing one’s compositions played and reviewed, including valuable feedback from classmates (who will be performing the compositions) and from the instructor;
- to enable the student to use jazz composition as a vehicle for personal artistic expression.

4. **GRADED ASSESSMENT**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items, weighted as indicated:

**Assignments** (three of the weekly composition assignments will be marked)

- Composition Assignment: 25%
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**Participation** (includes attendance, classroom discussion, submission of assignments on time): 25%

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

**Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in to the course instructor at the beginning of class on the due date.

**Lateness Penalty:** Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).
Missed Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student compositions are performed in class. Therefore, students are required to bring their instrument(s) to every class, unless otherwise advised by the Course Instructor.

Students will need access to a computer equipped with Internet, .mp3 player, and printer.

Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 10, 2017
Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 9, 2018
Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018

Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
  • Access/Disability
  • Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
  • Religious Observance Accommodation
  • Student Code of Conduct

http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf

Additional information:

  • Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
  • Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

  • The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.

  • http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

Manage my Academic record
  • http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/

"20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University