EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 1054H3.0 SECTION A
JAZZ STRINGS
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers private instruction in jazz strings playing includes an emphasis on developing melodic technique, harmonic structure, stylistic integrity, comping fluency, and repertoire competency. Prerequisite: Permission of the Instructor, by audition. Open to majors only, and not intended for beginners. Basic technical ability and theoretical knowledge is required.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

TBD

SPECIAL FEATURES

MUSI X054H JAZZ STRINGS
F/W 2020-21

1. Special Features

Time / Location: Students enrolled in 3.0 sections receive 12 lesson hours. Students in 6.0 sections receive 24 hours. Scheduled times are to be agreed upon by student and private lesson instructor and will all take place via ZOOM or another agreed-upon videoconferencing software.

2. Technical requirements for taking the course:

The course requires participation through videoconferencing using applications such as FACETIME or ZOOM, and potentially a paired audio application such as LISTENTO or CLEANFEED. Access to a stable, high speed internet connection and use of a computer (preferred - laptop or desktop) or smart device (mobile phone) with webcam and microphone (either built-in or external (preferred)) is essential. ZOOM is available free of charge to students and can be accessed at: www.yorku.zoom.us

Students may be expected to submit audio and video recordings of themselves, for evaluation and constructive criticism. For this the music department is adopting the software WeVu, which will allow students to upload videos and offers tools for real-time analysis. WeVu is available free of charge to students – the instructor will advise on this.

Students may also be required to participate through MOODLE, depending on needs of the instructor.
Technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle can be found here:
http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html

**In summary, Students will be required to:**

- participate in your course through video conferencing
- appear on video (e.g., for lesson instruction, musical demonstration, etc.)
- a stable, higher-speed Internet connection (To determine Internet connection and speed, run an online test, such as Speedtest: https://www.speedtest.net/
- a computer with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

**Information about the delivery and organization of the course:**

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. Please do not come to York - there will be no in-class interactions or activities on campus.

**Organization of the course:**

The class will be run with synchronous learning. Contact hours with the instructor will be held online synchronously, during the agreed-upon times. Meetings will involve ZOOM (or another teleconferencing method, as noted) and may be recorded for the instructor and student to view if needed.

3. **Course Consultation Hours:** By appointment.

4. **Expanded Course Description:** This course focuses on performance techniques within the tradition of jazz strings (usually violin or cello) as found in both ensemble and solo situations. Stylistic fluency and repertoire competency are emphasized. Melodic, harmonic and rhythmic skill plus specific performance techniques are also developed. There may also be compositional, transcription, analytic or listening assignments, at the discretion of the instructor.

---

**Prerequisites**

FA/MUSI 1054H 3.0 and 6.0 Prerequisite: Students must be music majors
FA/MUSI 2054H 3.0 and 6.0 Prerequisite: 1054H 3.0 or 6.0
FA/MUSI 3054H 3.0 and 6.0 Prerequisite: 2054H 3.0 or 6.0
FA/MUSI 4054H 3.0 and 6.0 Prerequisite: 3054H 3.0 or 6.0

5. **TOPICS AND CONCEPTS**

**Course Text / Readings / Materials:** Varies by individual instructor. Generally, a variety of recorded repertoire and jazz scores/transcriptions are suggested for listening and analysis. Students are required to bring their instruments to every meeting. A music manuscript book is recommended and students should get in the practice of taking notes.

6. **LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH EXAMPLES**

This course features goals in technical proficiency, repertoire development and improvisation abilities. These are intended as minimum requirements (described below). Additional requirements necessary to the student’s musical growth will be determined by the instructor during the year.

7. **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Musical Conception and Technical Requirements
Students enrolled at 1054 and 2054 levels should achieve competence in the execution of the following to be admitted into 3054H. These are minimum requirements; instructors may assign additional work. 3054 and 4054 level students will follow technical and conceptual exercises designed by individual course instructors.

**Scales/Modes/Chords**

1) Play all major scales and melodic minor (ascending form) scales starting from their root and played over 3 octaves. Student must demonstrate the ability to transition smoothly between eighth notes, triplets, and sixteenth notes every two bars at the assigned tempo. Students should demonstrate ability to bow consistently in groups of four, three, and two, as well as slur two notes and play next two notes separately for eighth and sixteenth notes.
   Tempo: MM quarter note = 80 (violin/viola), 72 (cello)

2) Play all Mixolydian, Dorian and Lydian modes starting from their root, ascending 3 octaves and returning to the root in eighth notes. Tempo: MM quarter note = 100

3) Arpeggiate two octaves of all maj7, dom7, min7, min7b5, dim 7, using both arco and pizzicato.

**Reading**

The student should demonstrate reasonable competence in reading written parts and lead sheets.

**Jazz conception (articulation, phrasing, dynamics)**

The student should demonstrate some degree of competence in jazz articulation and phrasing. Often an instructor may assign solo transcriptions to aid in the student’s development in this area. While not required for the final jury, it is recommended that students complete at least one solo transcription under the guidance of their instructor.

2. **Repertoire Requirements**

By the end of the year, the successful student should be familiar with basic concepts phrasing the melody, creating improvised solo lines, and be able to demonstrate this in performance of the following (either online in real time, or as a recorded video):

- **1054H 3.0 and 6.0**

  1) Blues: - melody, comping and improvising over basic blues chord progression or variations
   - 1 chorus melody, minimum 2 choruses soloing.
   - 1 chorus walking bass line (cello only).

  2) Standards: - melody and improvising over basic standard chord progression
   - 1 chorus melody, minimum 1 chorus soloing
   - 1 chorus walking bass line (cello only).

   - **students enrolled in 1054H 3.0 must learn a minimum of 2 standards**
2054H 3.0 and 6.0

1) “Rhythm”:
- melody, chords and improvising over ‘I Got Rhythm’ chord progression
  - 1 chorus melody, minimum 1 chorus soloing
  - 1 chorus walking bass line (cello only).

2) Standards:
- melody and improvising over basic standard chord progression
  - 1 chorus melody, minimum 1 chorus soloing
  - 1 chorus walking bass line (cello only).
  - students enrolled in 2054H 3.0 must learn a minimum of 3 standards
    (recommended one swing, one latin or bossa piece)
  - students enrolled in 2054H 6.0 must learn a minimum of 5 standards
    (recommended one swing, one latin or bossa piece)

3054H 3.0 and 6.0

Standards:
- melody and improvising over basic standard chord progression
  - 1 chorus melody, minimum 1 chorus soloing
  - 1 chorus walking bass line (cello only).
  - students enrolled in 3054H 3.0 must learn a minimum of 4 standards
    (recommended one swing, one latin or bossa piece)
  - students enrolled in 3054H 6.0 must learn a minimum of 6 standards
    (recommended one swing, one latin or bossa piece)

4054A 3.0 and 6.0

Standards:
- melody and improvising over basic standard chord progression
  - 1 chorus melody, minimum 1 chorus soloing
  - 1 chorus walking bass line (cello only).
  - students enrolled in 4054A 3.0 must learn a minimum of 6 standards
    (recommended one swing, one latin or bossa piece)
  - students enrolled in 4054A 6.0 must learn a minimum of 8 standards
    (recommended one swing, one latin or bossa piece)

Musical conception and technique (scales, etc) are to be tested by the instructor throughout the year. The dates of these tests will be announced by the instructor but will generally occur mid-term and end of term. Other requirements necessary to the student’s musical growth will be determined by the instructor during the year. A juried performance exam* at the end of the Winter Term will consider technique and jazz conception within the context of repertoire performance.

GRADED ASSESSMENT
Instructor Fall Term 30%
Instructor Winter Term 30%
Juried Performance* Held at end of Winter Term 40%
TOTAL 100%

Please Note: Students MUST be available to perform their final jury exam*, scheduled within the York University final exam period.

*NOTE: Depending on provincial and university guidelines for health and safety, juries in 2021 may take various forms, including in person, synchronous online or asynchronous online. Decisions on the format of the juries will be communicated to students as early as possible in order to facilitate preparation.

Instructor’s Evaluation (60% of final mark)
The instructor’s mark will reflect the student’s competence in meeting the following:

Attendance
Lesson preparation
Completion of any assignments
Performance level and progress

Half of the instructor’s mark will be given at the end of the fall term, the remainder at the end of the winter term.

Performance Jury (40% of final mark)
At the conclusion of each year the student will be examined by jury. Students must come prepared with an accurate repertoire list based on the repertoire requirements listed above. This repertoire list must be submitted on the jury form and signed by the student’s instructor. One legible and accurate lead sheet copy of each tune on the repertoire list must be submitted to the jurors. Adjudicators may ask questions about the composer, the form of the piece, definitive performances, or other relevant musical matters.

NOTE: All repertoire selections must be memorized for final jury performance

While students are expected to conduct themselves professionally please note that the jury performance is an exam (not a concert). Within this context jurors may sometimes stop the student before a piece is concluded. This is meant to be neither a negative nor a positive indication of the performance. While there is no dress code requirement, students are expected to wear clothing appropriate for a professional jazz performance.

The instructor will work with 1054 and 2054 students to create a performance piece that demonstrates various jazz style elements listed above. The student will perform this piece as part of the year-end jury exam.

First year 3.0
Students will perform a maximum of 6 minutes of repertoire (2 pieces): a 12-bar blues form and a demonstration ‘rhythm performance piece’.

First year 6.0
Students will perform a maximum of 10 minutes of repertoire (2 pieces): a 12-bar blues form and a demonstration ‘rhythm performance piece’.

**Second year 3.0**
Students will perform a maximum of 8 minutes of repertoire (2 pieces): ‘32-bar rhythm changes form’ and a demonstration ‘rhythm performance piece’.

**Second year 6.0**
Students will perform a maximum of 15 minutes of repertoire (2 pieces): ‘32-bar rhythm changes form’ and a demonstration ‘rhythm performance piece’.

**Third year 3.0**
Students will perform a maximum of 10 minutes of repertoire (2-3 pieces). The student will begin with a piece of his/her own choosing and the jury will request subsequent selections from the repertoire list (jury form).

**Third year 6.0**
Students will perform a maximum of 20 minutes of repertoire (3-4 pieces). The student will begin with a piece of his/her own choosing and the jury will request subsequent selections from the repertoire list (jury form).

**Fourth year 3.0**
Students will perform a maximum of 13 minutes of repertoire (3-4 pieces). The student will begin with a piece of his/her own choosing and the jury will request subsequent selections from the repertoire list (jury form).

**Fourth year 6.0**
Students will perform a maximum of 25 minutes of repertoire (4-6 pieces). The student will begin with a piece of his/her own choosing and the jury will request subsequent selections from the repertoire list (jury form).

**Jury Accompaniment Policy**
1054 and 2054 students will perform solo. 3054 and 4054 students must arrange to bring qualified accompanists to their Performance Jury **at their own expense**. Please note: inappropriate accompaniment often leads to poorer jury performance (resulting in a lower grade). Please endeavour to use qualified accompanists.

**Please Note:**
3054 students are required to be accompanied by (at least) a bass player.
4054 students are encouraged to organise a small jazz combo for their jury performance.

Adjudicators may ask questions about the composer, the form of the piece, definitive performances or other relevant musical matters. Students are advised to view the jury exam as a ‘professional level performance.’ Therefore, the preparation of materials (one copy of music/lead sheet for the jury, if applicable, and accurate repertoire lists signed by the instructor) is an important part of the Performance Jury process. While there is no specific dress code requirement, students are expected to wear clothing appropriate for a professional jazz performance.

**Jury Evaluation**
The Jury is worth 40% of the final course mark. The Jury is designed to give the student experience in performing, and therefore reflects only the performance level at the time of the jury.

**Jury Grading Scheme:**

- Tone quality and technique: 8 points
- Melodic concept (‘head’ and soloing): 8 points
- Rhythmic concept (time-feel and phrasing): 8 points
- Harmonic concept (making the ‘chord changes’): 8 points
- Artistic communication (articulation, dynamics, creativity): 8 points

**TOTAL**: 40 points

**‘Professional’ Expectations**
Up to 10 marks may be deducted if certain expectations are not met, as follows:

**Timeliness**
If student does not show up for the scheduled jury on time, up to 5 marks can be deducted from the total jury mark. If a student is using accompanists, limited set up time is available and must be executed in the most efficient manner possible. If accompanists are late or unprepared this may negatively affect the student's mark.

**Preparation**
If student is not prepared for the scheduled jury (e.g. repertoire is not memorized), up to 5 marks may be deducted from the total jury mark.

**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.). For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.

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

**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.

**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.
8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Last date to enroll (with permission of course instructor): **October 27, 2020**
Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade: **February 5, 2020**
Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: **November 6, 2020**
Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: **March 12, 2021**
Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: **February 5, 2021**

Useful links describing computing information, resources and help for students:

- Computing for Students Website: [https://student.computing.yorku.ca/](https://student.computing.yorku.ca/)
- Student Guide to eLearning at York University: [http://elearning-guide.apps01.yorku.ca/](http://elearning-guide.apps01.yorku.ca/)
- Learning Skills Services: [https://lss.info.yorku.ca/online-learning/](https://lss.info.yorku.ca/online-learning/)
- Zoom@YorkU Best Practices: [https://staff.computing.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/Zoom@YorkU-Best-Practicesv2.pdf](https://staff.computing.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/Zoom@YorkU-Best-Practicesv2.pdf)

**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
- 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](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm))
- Manage my Academic record: [http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/](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.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University