

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Division:	Humanities
Department:	Speech and Performing Arts
Course ID:	MUS 136
Course Title:	Introduction to Jazz Rock Piano
Units:	3
Lecture:	2 Hours
Laboratory:	2 Hours
Prerequisite:	MUS 133

Catalog Description:

An introduction to the contemporary styles of piano performance with an emphasis on Jazz, Rock, Latin, and Pop. Includes contemporary theory, ear training and improvisation skills.

Schedule Description:

An introduction to the contemporary styles of piano performance, emphasizing Jazz, Rock, Latin, and Pop styles.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Distinguish the key features of the contemporary idioms of Jazz and Rock
- B. Rehearse and perform the contemporary idioms of Jazz and rock
- C. Recognize the differences between modern piano techniques and traditional keyboard theory
- D. Compare and contrast the music repertoire of the great jazz masters
- E. Identify the various music styles of 20th century music from Ragtime to rock
- F. Construct a walking bass line (a la Basie)
- G. Explore elementary techniques of improvisation through chords, progressions, melodic lines, and rhythmic variations

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

- A. Learning to play the major and minor scales in the swing, pop, rock, and latin styles
- B. Constructing an improvised bass line for a given melody
- C. Studying standard Blues chord changes along with the Blues scale
- D. Learning the techniques of improvisation
- E. Learning the rhythmic, harmonic, and melodic techniques associated with ad lib performance practices since Franz Liszt

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lectures
- B. Group discussion
- C. Demonstrations by instructor
- D. Practical exercises

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading: Read the chapter on improvisation. In your group, discuss the techniques of improvisation and sources of inspiration for your creations.
- B. Demonstration: Compose and notate a piece of blues music. Play your composition for the class. Then, teach the class to play your composition.

- C. Writing and Critical Thinking: Attend a blues or jazz concert. In a 3-4 page paper, present your analysis of the performance both as a whole and the piano performance in particular. Be sure to use course concepts and terminology to explain your thoughts.

VII. EVALUATION(S):

- A. Methods of evaluation: In general, students are evaluated on their ability to apply course concepts to their performance and in their written analyses. Sample test questions:
 - 1. Compare and contrast two of the musical genres covered in class (e.g., swing, pop, rock, and Latin).
 - 2. Construct an improvised bass line for the melody you were given in class.
- B. Frequency of evaluation:
 - 1. One midterm
 - 2. One final examination
 - 3. At least one written analysis
 - 4. At least 3 public performances

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

- A. Ferrara, John. Jazz piano and harmony: A fundamental guide. John Ferrara Music Publishing, 2000.
- B. Waite, Brian. Modern jazz piano: A study in harmony. Omnibus Publishers, 1997.
- C. Konowitz, Bert. Jazz/Rock course books 1 and 1. Alfred, 1991.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None.

Content Review Form PREREQUISITE COURSE

Target Course: Music 136, Jazz Rock Piano

Prerequisite Course: Music 133, Beginning Piano

Instructions:

- 1) List exit competencies (skills) from Prerequisite Course. These skills are listed in the "Student Outcomes" section of the Course Outline ("upon completion of the course, the student should be able to...")
- 2) Indicate which of the listed exit competencies (skills) are necessary entry skills needed for success in the target course. Mark with an "X" each needed skill.
- 3) Indicate the degree of importance of each needed entry skill for course success, using the following rating scale:

1=Critical 2=Very Helpful 3=Desirable

Skills Analysis

Entry skills in Target Course	Exit Skills Provided by prerequisite course (Mark with an X if needed, and indicate prerequisite course (if more than one).	Degree of Importance (Rate 1 – 3)
Read music using the elements of music notation	x	1
Demonstrate appropriate hand and body posture at the piano	x	1
Keep time using the parameters of rhythmic notation and meter/time signatures	x	1
Improvise simple melodies and accompaniments using the I-IV-V chord progression	x	1
Sight-read simple piano pieces involving hand independence and changing hand positions	x	1
Recognize all major and minor five-finger patterns and major and minor triads	x	1
Play simple ensemble pieces with fellow musicians	x	1
Play scales hands together, one octave in the following major keys: C, G, D, A, E	x	1
Demonstrate a working knowledge of terms and symbols relating to the music pieces studied	x	1

San Bernardino Valley College
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