



MUJS 1371 - Jazz Keyboard Fundamentals

MU121 | TuTh 2:00 - 2:50 pm

June Lee

DMA Candidate and Teaching Fellow, Jazz Piano

Office Hours: By Appt

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COURSE PHILOSOPHY/OBJECTIVES

This course delivers jazz keyboard instruction for non-pianist jazz studies majors. Although techniques will be briefly discussed, the main objective for this course is to help increase your understanding of functional harmony from the angles of voicing and voice leading so that you will be able to 1) self-accompany and 2) arrange with better harmonic awareness. In addition to studying prescribed voicings, you will have a chance to explore, create and justify your own progressions through writing assignments. You will be tested regularly on both the prescribed voicings and your own, therefore, establishing a regular practice routine is essential.

COURSE CONTENT/MATERIALS

There is no textbook required for this course. You will be given a printed packet at the first day of class that includes necessary information. You are expected to bring the packet to every class meeting.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

GRADING: Your grade is determined by the following criteria.

5%: 2 Labeling Assignments (2.5% each)

60%: 11 Skills Tests (6% each), 1 lowest grade dropped

15%: 2 Writing Assignments (7.5% each)

20%: 1 Final Project: writing component (10%) and playing component (10%)

The final grade is determined by the following scale:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = below 60%.

****Grades that are one point or less below a cutoff can be rounded up at the sole discretion of the instructor based on a student's overall effort, disposition, and attendance both in class and in office hours. For example, 89.1 and 89.0 *can* be rounded at the instructor's discretion, 88.9 *cannot*.**

SKILLS TESTS

You will be tested most weeks of the course during class time. You will be asked to play with a metronome set at a predetermined tempo. Each test will be graded out of 10 points. You are welcome to arrive early and warm up wearing headphones. Please be on time.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be asked to write several phrases and arrange a standard of your choice using the voicings covered in class. There is no rhythmic component necessary for these phrases and arrangements. Details for each assignment will be available on Canvas. You are free to handwrite assignments for your own benefit, but all submissions must be **computer notated** and in **concert key (grand staff)**.

All writing assignments are submitted through **Canvas** by **2 pm of the due date**. This is a **firm deadline: no late work is accepted for any reason** except an excused absence. If you email the instructor to ask about submitting a late assignment, you will simply be referred to the policy here in the syllabus. Illegibility, unclear images or recordings will not be graded. Do not email assignments to the instructor, only use the Canvas platform.

The instructor will provide individual feedback through the Canvas platform and advise if extra work is needed. Please be sure to check Canvas for comments and feedback on your submissions.

ATTENDANCE:

Please note: Attendance is not directly factored into any of these grading criteria, but each unexcused absence **after the FOURTH** will lower your **final grade** by 5%, regardless of performance in any of the above criteria.

Excused absences are, of course, always permitted with reasonable cause and ample notice (when possible). **These absences do not count towards the four unexcused absences**. Please email the instructor to clear these in advance, or as soon as possible after-the-fact in case of emergency. Please provide documentation/verification.

If you feel overwhelmed in any way, or if you are dealing with something that is causing you to miss a significant amount of class, the best thing to do is to speak with the instructor as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester when grades are published.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1:

Tue Jan 12 - No Class

Thu Jan 14 - Course Overview, Course Packet, Functional Harmony, Chord Labeling Exercise, Key Circle Exercise

Week 2:

Tue Jan 19 - No Class (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Thu Jan 21 - Extensions and Alterations, Overview of Labeling Assignment, 1-1 A and B, Application on Standards

Week 3:

Tue Jan 26 - **Labeling Assignment 1 Due**, Ear Training, Guide Tones, p225 Practice

Thu Jan 28 - Application on Standards, Overview of Skills Tests 1 and 2, Individual Practice

Week 4:

Tue Feb 2 - **Skills Test 1:** Playing Honeysuckle Rose – F, G, Bb (randomly assigned)

Thu Feb 4 - **Skills Test 2:** (1-3-7), (1-7-3) on Page 227 Whole-Step, Half-Step

Week 5:

Tue Feb 9 - Ear Training, Overview of Writing Assignment 1, Random Chord Exercise

Thu Feb 11 - Random Chord Exercise, Application on Standards, Individual Practice

Week 6:

Tue Feb 16 - **Skills Test 3: Random Chords** (1-3-7), (1-7-3)

Thu Feb 18 - **Writing Assignment 1 Due**, 2-1 A and B, Group Practice, Application on Standards

Week 7:

Tue Feb 23 - Ear Training, #3, #5 on Page 227, Common Chord Progression Exercise

Thu Feb 25 - #3, #5 on Page 227, Individual Practice

Week 8:

Tue Mar 2 - **Skills Test 4:** Material from Writing Assignment 1

Thu Mar 4 - **Skills Test 5:** #3, #5 on Page 227 with (1-3-7) and (1-7-3)

Week 9:

Tue Mar 9 - Ear Training, Overview of Labeling Assignment 2, 4-1 A and B

Thu Mar 11 - **Labeling Assignment 2 Due**, Random Chord Exercise, Application on Standards, Individual Practice

Week 10:

Tue Mar 16 - **Skills Test 6:** (1-3-7-9)

Thu Mar 18 - **Skills Test 7:** (1-7-3-5), **Writing Assignment 2 Due**

Week 11:

Tue Mar 23 - Ear Training, Singing Phrases from WA2, 4-2 A and B
Thu Mar 25 - 4-2A and B, Individual Practice

Week 12:

Tue Mar 30 - **Skills Test 8:** Material from Writing Assignment 2
Thu Apr 1 - **Skills Test 9:** “What is this Thing Called Love?”

Week 13:

Tue Apr 6 - Ear Training, 5-1 A and B
Thu Apr 8 - Analysis of “A Quiet Place” by Take 6, Individual Practice

Week 14:

Tue Apr 13 - **Skills Test 10:** (1-7-3-5-9)
Thu Apr 15 - **Skills Test 11:** (1-3-7-9-5)

Week 15:

Tue Apr 20 - No Class, **Written Portion of the Final Project Due**
Thu Apr 22 - No Class, **Individual Zoom Meetings**

Week 16 (Finals Week):

Tue Apr 27 – No Class, **Updated Final Project and Recording Due**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

LINK: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/integrity>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

LINK: Student Code of Conduct - <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT:

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021

<https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

FINANCIAL AID AND SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS:

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the

required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard/Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING:

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>. For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741 | Myriam.Reynolds@unt.edu