

MUT 6177 Graduate Jazz Theory

Spring 2025

Course Meeting Time: TBA Instructions to start the course will be on the Canvas platform the first day the semester starts.

Class Location: TBA

Credit Hours: 3 credits

Instructor – UF Director of Jazz Studies: Scott Wilson (swilson@arts.ufl.edu)

Teaching Assistant and Grader – Noah Berdugo (nberdugo@ufl.edu)

Instructor Office Location: School of Music: Room 354

Office Hours: TBA

Instructor Contact Information: Contact through your Canvas platform (Select “instructor” in the “to” field and then select my name.) For emergencies contact me directly at: swilson@arts.ufl.edu

Course Description

Graduate Jazz Theory provides graduate instruction for jazz fundamentals, teaching jazz harmony, jazz chord symbols, common jazz scales and modes, jazz articulations, blues forms, piano voicings, the basics of tune writing, and techniques in memorizing jazz standards. Online resources include online platform, flash cards, worksheets and 35 instructional videos. Through completing this course students will also have a solid knowledge of jazz theory and how to efficiently teach jazz theory and understand the basics of how to operate and manage online jazz theory technology platforms. A passing grade of B or better in this course is required for the Master Degree.

Portfolio requirement: Student will develop two short jazz theory teaching videos that could be used to win jobs in the marketplace. (Topics for videos are outlined in the grade sheet in this syllabus)

Course Objectives/Goals

Graduate Jazz Theory teaches skills vital to participating in the current music industry and academic teaching environment. This course provides students with the commercial theory needed to develop advanced improvisation skills, read chord symbols, extend chords, use modern scales to create interesting colors, and will provide students with the advanced knowledge of song writing chord structures. This course further discusses how to teach jazz theory and fundamentals and implement a jazz fundamentals program.

Representative Text and/or Materials

Author: Scott Wilson: [The Ultimate Jazz Tool Kit and Ultimate Music Workbook](#). 2016, Kendall Hunt Publishing, 1st edition. The textbook comes with an interactive online platform, 35 instructional videos, 4 categories of jazz flash cards, 70 music worksheets, jazz networking links, etc. The textbook and workbook for this course are currently available in the University Book Store in the Reitz Union. Below is the link to online platform which offers several options including the option to purchase an online book.

http://www.kendallhunt.com/jazz_tool_kit/

Remember to save your confirmation code (you will enter this code into to access the online platform, the 35 jazz instructional videos, resources, worksheets, assignments, etc.).

List of Videos Available in the Ultimate Jazz Tool Kit

- (1) Extending Minor Chords Lesson (Studio) *
- (2) Scales and Modes Lecture Demonstration
- (3) Arpeggiating Minor Chords Lesson (Studio)
- (4) Extending Chords Lecture
- (5) Polychords Lecture
- (6) Pentatonics on Minors Demo and Lesson (Studio)
- (7) Workout on Minor Chords Lesson (Studio)
- (8) Extending Major 7th Chords (Studio)
- (9) Extending Dominant Chords (Studio)
- (10) Altered Dominant Exercise and Lesson (Studio)
- (11) Tritone Substitution Lecture
- (12) 2-5-1 Play Along (Studio)
- (13) Harmonic Minor Scale on Dominants (Studio)
- (14) Hearing Harmonic Minor Scale, Quick Demo (Studio)
- (15) #11 vs b5 & b9 and #9 Basics Lecture
- (16) Perfect Blues & Bebop Basics Lecture
- (17) The 1, 4 and 5 chords (Studio)
- (18) F7 Play Along (Studio)
- (19) Eb7 Play Along (Studio)
- (20) Bb7 Play Along (Studio)
- (21) Eb Blues Play Along (Studio)
- (22) Sight Reading Lecture
- (23) Economical Piano Voicings 1 (Studio)
- (24) Economical Piano Voicings 2 (Hourglass) (Studio)
- (25) Economical Piano Voicings 3, Bluesy 6,9 Voicings (Studio)
- (26) Writing First Tune, Blue Form 1 (Studio)
- (27) Writing First Tune, Blues Form 2 (Studio)
- (28) Writing First Tune, Blues Form 3 (Studio)
- (29) Writing First Tune, Modal 1 So What (Studio)
- (30) Writing First Tune, Modal 2 (Studio)
- (31) Get Jazz Instructor Lecture

To make sure you are solid on the basics, please know the content contained in the Review Videos below. This will greatly enhance your experience and help you understand the content in the intermediate instructional videos listed above.

- (R1) Chord Terminology and Examples (Studio) *
- (R2) Building Major7ths Lecture *
- (R3) Building Minor7ths Lecture *
- (R4) Visualizing the Keyboard (Studio)
- (R5) Jazz Resources Lecture

Course Online Components

Note: For part of the course we will be covering how to operate an online jazz theory platform and we will complete assignments from the online platform.

Graduate Jazz Theory Grade Sheet

NAME: _____

ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

NOTE: PRINT THIS OUT TO TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

400 POINTS: TWO IN CLASS JAZZ THEORY EXAM (200 points each). Score: _____

There will be 2 jazz theory exams to confirm students have grasped the concepts presented in the class lectures, text book, worksheets and videos.

400 POINTS: TWO SHORT TEACHING VIDEOS FOR YOUR MEDIA Score: _____

DESCRIPTION: From the information covered in class lectures and assignments, students will create 2 short Jazz Theory Teaching Videos. They will then combine these videos into one 4 to 5 minute highlight video for their jazz theory teaching portfolio. As a reference, students will watch and review selected theory videos to gain insight on how to present material efficiently in the video environment. Each video is worth 100 points.

Video topics are below. Other topics may be suggested and approved by the instructor.

1. Chord Symbols
2. Extending Chords
3. Scales and Modes
4. Blues Licks with Play-along
5. Dominant Chords and Alterations

500 points: COMPLETE 10 JAZZ THEORY WORKSHEETS FROM ULTIMATE JAZZ TOOL KIT AND WORKBOOK (50 points each) Score: _____

Students will complete 10 jazz theory worksheets to gain insight on techniques for designing 5 worksheets of their own. Students have access to over 70 Jazz Theory Worksheets on the online platform as a reference.

400 points: DESIGN 2 JAZZ WORKSHEETS FOR YOUR STUDENTS Score: _____

Worksheet may be instrument specific or general to all students. Worksheets should target simple route activities that teach content efficiently. Worksheets should be crafted to target various types of learners (For example, having a student write the same information on the staff, on the piano and with physical letters). Each worksheet must have a simple scoring system and answer key.

400 points: TWO JAZZ PIANO COMPING EXAMS Score: _____

300 points: Complete Personal Website (Training on Wix). Score: _____

100 points: ATTENDANCE IN CLASS Score: _____

TOTAL OUT OF 2500 POINTS Score: _____

GRADING SCALE AND CALCULATING YOUR GRADE

2500 Point Scale for Final Grade	
2500	A
2250	A-
2200	B+

2075	B
2000	B-
1950	C+
1825	C
1750	C-
1700	D+
1575	D
1500	D-
1499 and below	is E

Resource: UF Grading Policy Website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>

Attendance Policies

Any unexcused absences will lower the final grade automatically 1/2 a letter grade, i.e. ...1 unexcused = A to A-, 2 unexcused = A- to B, etc. All excused absences will require the proper written documentation that the student has been excused from school during the time in question. Without this approval we cannot excuse the absence.

Tardy

A tardy is defined as not being in class when class begins. Members who arrive late to “3 classes” will have their grade lowered ½ letter grade.

Make-ups for Exams or Other Work

In order to remain fair to all students enrolled in this course who are held to the same academic standard, make-ups for any assignment will require written documentation that the student has been excused from school during the time in question. Without this approval we cannot issue a make-up. This includes all requests for permission to grant a make-up for personal issues involving family, work, deaths, hardships, marriages, pregnancies, illnesses, financial problems, etc. We do apologize for this inconvenience, however, in order to be ethically in good standing, this documentation is needed to ensure the accuracy of all claims made.

Resource: UF Grading Policy Website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Students with disabilities

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

Academic Honesty

At the University of Florida every student signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University.” The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing is subject to an

automatic E and further disciplinary action. All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception.

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

**If you are repeating this course at UF, please be aware that turning in any part of any written assignment that you submitted for this course in the past also constitutes academic misconduct. See “Scope and Violations” under the Honor Code above.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>.

Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

It is the policy of the University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. This includes information sent through e-mail. Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in any form will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. For more specific information, please see www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass (Located in the General Information section of the University Catalog.)

Campus Resources and Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.