Title: Applied Jazz Improvisation

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:
The study of the fundamentals of jazz improvisation through applied instruction; includes jazz harmony, transcriptions, idiomatic phrasing and technical improvisation skills (1 credit hour)

II. Prerequisite:
By audition or consent of instructor (proficiency on a musical instrument is required)

III. Purpose or Objectives of the Course:
The purpose of this course is to teach the skills necessary for jazz improvisation. Specifically, the course objectives will enable the student musician to:
A. Understand jazz theory and harmony associated with jazz chord changes
B. Play scales and arpeggios within the five scale patterns (major, minor, dominant, half-diminished and diminished)
C. Perform melodies of various jazz standards with proper style and nuance
D. Play various improvisational patterns in all twelve key signatures
E. Spontaneously improvise in all twelve key signatures
F. Transcribe a recorded jazz solo and be able to play the solo, once adequately notated, along with the recording
G. Play chords with jazz voicings and basic scales on the piano, in selected key areas
H. Learn and perform jazz standards with regard for melody, harmony and style by memory

IV. Expectations of Students:
A. Regular and punctual lesson attendance
B. Each student will be expected to practice on their own and participate in the following activities:
   1. In-lesson performances
   2. Scales and scale patterns
   3. Performing jazz ‘heads’ in proper style
   4. Improvisation patterns in all keys
   5. Spontaneous improvisation with idiomatic phrasing
   6. Notated jazz solo transcription
   7. Performance of chords with jazz voicings on the piano
   8. Performance of basic jazz scales on the piano
   9. Playing exam/jury at the end of the semester
C. Each student will be able to demonstrate (based upon student level):
   1. Ability to improvise over jazz chord changes (ie. 12 bar blues chord changes, ‘I Got Rhythm’ chord changes)
   2. Basic swing rhythm and jazz feel
   3. A strong sense of expressiveness and creativity within improvised solos

V. Course Content or Outline:
A. Level One (MP154) 15
1. *Jamey Aebersold Volume One, “How to Play Jazz and Improvise”* – book and CD
2. Basic music theory and jazz improvisation
3. Altered chords and scales
4. ii – V – I progression mastery

**B. Level Two (MP254)**
1. Ability to demonstrate all items from Level 1
2. Scales used in jazz
   a. Major, Dominant 7th, Minor, Half Diminished, Diminished. (taken from Jamey Aebersold scale chart)
4. Playing the jazz ‘head’ or melody; nuance added with altered notes and rhythms
5. Elementary level jazz solo transcription from recording
6. Basic jazz piano voicings

**C. Level Three (MP354)**
1. Ability to demonstrate all items from Levels 1 and 2
2. Selected patterns for jazz (*Patterns for Jazz* by Jerry Coker)
3. Advanced jazz solo transcription: student will transcribe a solo played by a jazz master and learn to play the solo along with the recording
5. Advanced ii-V-I patterns and turnarounds

**D. Level Four (MP454)**
1. Ability to demonstrate all items from Levels 1 and 2
2. Various listening assignments
4. Memorization of at least three separate jazz tunes, including melody, chord changes and form

**VI. Textbook and/or Other Required Equipment:**


**VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:**
Student will be evaluated on:
A. Final playing exam/jury 50%
B. Performance projects 30%
C. Written assignments 20%