MUS223  Jazz Keyboard Harmony & Improvisation  
Course Number  Course title  
1  0 lecture/2 lab  
Credits  Hours  

Catalog description: 
An introductory course designed to give students the fundamental of jazz harmony, chord progressions, scales, and tools for improvisation at the keyboard.

Prerequisites: MUS 221 Piano III, or equivalent  Corequisites: None

Required texts/other materials:  
Jazz Improvisation for Keyboard Players (complete edition) by Dan Haerle  
Jazz Chord Voicing for Keyboard by Bill Boyd

Last revised: Fall 2016

Course coordinator: Scott Hornick, Assistant Professor of Music – CM 149; (609) 570-3716; hornicks@mccc.edu
A. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will be expected to learn and use various non-diatonic scales that are appropriate for jazz improvisation. *(MCCC Core Skill B)*

2. Students will be expected to study 4 - 6 technical exercises emphasizing syncopation and rhythmic feel. *(MCCC Core Skills B and D)*

3. Students will be expected to read and interpret chord charts. *(MCCC Core Skills B and F)*

4. Students will be expected to use the Left Hand in different jazz style accompaniments and rhythmic treatments. *(MCCC Core Skills B and F)*

5. Students will be expected to use proper voice leading through a series of chord progressions. *(MCCC Core Skills B and D)*

6. Students will be expected to create their own melodies and learn pianistic approaches to soloing in the Right Hand. *(MCCC Core Skills B, D and F)*

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**MCCC Core Skills**

**Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving.** Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

**Goal D. Information Literacy.** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

**Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation.** Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

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**Academic Integrity Policy**

As stated in the student handbook, “A student will be guilty of violating academic integrity if he/she (a) knowingly represents the work of others as his/her own, (b) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in the execution of academic work, or (c) gives fraudulent assistance to another student.” Students should read the Academic Integrity policy in the MCCC Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

*Academic Dishonesty will result in failure of this course.*

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**Accommodations**

Mercer County Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented differing ability or think that you may have a differing
ability that is protected under the ADA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact Arlene Stinson in LB 216 {stinsona@mccc.edu} for information regarding support services.

**Financial Aid Application Statement**

It is recommended that student complete an application for financial aid to determine eligibility for financial assistance. The application is **FREE** and available for completion beginning **October 1, 2016** for the 2017-18 academic year. Visit [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov) to complete your application. Applications should be completed **before** December 1, 2016. Students who are interested in MCCC Foundation scholarships are expected to complete an application as well.
B. **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

**Week**

1. Creating melodies using chord tones
2. Exploring non-diatonic scales and modes.
3. Improvising melodies with scale tones.
4. Creating melodies using scale tones and chord tones.
5. Reading chord charts.
7. “A” Form and “B” Form chords
8. Styles of Left Hand accompaniment.
10. Pianistic Approaches to Soloing (single note linear solo)
11. Octave or Double Octave Unisons.
12. The Chord Style Solo
13. Chord Progressions.
14. Cycling Progressions of 5th’s
15. Chromatic Progressions.
16. Final Evaluation