

Jazz Guitar Ensemble Syllabus, MUN1481, Section C

Instructor

Nick Petumenos

Campus Phone

907-947-9603
(number does receive texts)

Email

nick.petumenos@gmail.com

Meeting Time

Friday, 10:00 AM-12:50 PM,
Building 4, Room 149

Office Hours

Monday, 10:00-10:30 AM, or
by appointment. Building 4,
Room 185 or as available

Credits

One

Bulletin Description

Open to all students, faculty and members of the community who play guitar. Enrollment is determined by the director through audition. Participants will study and perform music of various styles in preparation for public performance. May be taken four times for transfer credit.

Prerequisites

By audition. Co-enrollment in private jazz guitar lessons is recommended.

Course Objectives

The goal of jazz guitar ensemble is to prepare the student to participate in the jazz combos at Broward College.

Student Outcomes: At the end of the semester, the student is expected to be able to perform several melodies from the jazz repertoire, play effective accompaniment, improvise a solo over the chord changes, and count off and end tunes. Having achieved these goals, the student will be prepared to audition for the jazz combos of varied instrumentation offered at Broward College.

Instructional Methodology

The course is divided into two aspects: a fret board lab (Tuesdays) geared towards mastering harmony, in both chordal and linear manifestations, and an ensemble-playing workshop (Thursdays) focused on building performance skills and musicianship.

- **Topics to be covered in lab**

Single string, position and “notes-per-string” approaches will be used to develop empowering visualization of the following structures on the fretboard:

Major scale and its modes, harmonic minor and its modes, melodic minor (ascending) and its modes, harmonic major and its modes, pentatonics, triads, seventh chords, whole tone scale, diminished scale, augmented scale, other symmetrical structures and parallelism.

Strategies to begin applying these musical structures to playing over changes will be discussed in great detail. Approach patterns, upper structures, guide tone lines, play rest approach and spectrum exploration exercises will be applied to improvisation over the tunes that are played in the ensemble component of the course.

A vocabulary of chord voicings appropriate to different instrumentation contexts will be established through the examination of 3rd/7th voicings (Cake-Plate-Frosting, patent pending), drop2’s, 3’s, 2 & 3’s, 2 & 4’s, three note intervallic voicings, open string possibilities and more.

- **Topics to be covered in performance workshop**

The performance workshop provides the opportunity to apply the content discussed in the lab in the context of standard jazz repertoire. The selection of material will be based on four modules: blues, tunes that run the circle of fifths, tunes that include secondary dominants and modal tunes. On stage communication, dynamics, time feel, guitar tone and concepts relating to general musicality will be discussed in response to in class performances.

Required Text

In class hand outs, created by the instructor. These materials will also be made available online.

Additionally, the “iReal Pro” app, which is available for iPhone and Android systems, can be very helpful in the early stages of learning to play over chord changes. The app is available for download through iTunes and the Google Play Store. The current version costs \$12.99.

Examinations

There is no exam for guitar ensemble, however there is a culminating recital. The recital is scheduled during class time in the last week of classes, on Thursday, December 8th. Participation in the recital is required. Students who perform in the recital will automatically be awarded 25 points towards their final grade. Students who do not participate in the recital will forfeit 25 points of their final grade.

Grading Policy

- Attendance – 50%

The student’s primary responsibility in this class is to be present. Any unexcused absence will result in a loss of 5 points toward the final grade. Therefore, even two unexcused absences can cost a letter grade. Exceptions will be made only in the case of medical emergencies and bereavements. Students with no unexcused absences will receive the full 50 points towards their final grade.

Additionally, please be aware of the Broward College attendance policy:

<http://www.broward.edu/legal/policies/Section%20Template/6Hx2-4.18.pdf>

- Participation – 25%

Four to six tunes will be presented in each module. Students are expected to learn at least one tune in each module, and be able to play the tune in class, start to finish, including melody, chord changes and improvisation. Accordingly, each tune is worth 7.5% of the final grade for the semester. Upon successful completion of a start-to-finish in class performance of a tune from the module, the student will be awarded the 7.5 points for that module towards their final grade. If a student should neglect to achieve performance readiness of at least one tune from the module, the 7.5 points from that module will be forfeited.

- Recital – 25%

Each student will choose at least one of the pieces presented in the class to play in trio format (i.e., bass, drums and guitar) at the recital as a featured soloist. See “Examinations” above.

Course Schedule

Week	Lab	Workshop
Jan 8-12	Auditions	Begin blues module, Blues by 5
Jan 16-19	Cake, plate, frosting	Rehearse blues module rep
Jan 22-26	Major and the modes	“ ”
Jan 29-Feb 2	Scales on one string	“ ”
Feb 5-9	Position playing	Begin Circle of 5 th tunes module
Feb 12-16	Notes per string concept	Rehearse Circle 5 th rep
Feb 19-23	Chord sudoku: Drop 2's	“ ”
Feb 26- Mar 2	Chord sudoku: Drop 3's	“ ”
Mar 12-16	Pentatonics: Using the “Blues Box”	Begin 2ndary Dominants Module
Mar 19-23	Harmonic/Melodic and their modes	Rehearse 2ndary Dom. rep
Mar 26-30	Guide tone lines	“ ”
Apr 2-6	Approach Patterns	“ ”
Apr 9-13	Upper structure triads	Begin modal tune module
Apr 16-20	Play rest/spectrum practicing	Thanksgiving, no class
Apr 23-27	Rehearse modal rep	Rehearse for recital
Apr 30-May 4	Rehearse for recital	Dec 8, RECITAL!!!!

Honor Code

Students will be bound by the Broward College Honor Code. All reports, papers, written assignments, test papers and examination papers must include a signed honor pledge that states: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any aid on this assignment.” Academic dishonesty may result in a lower grade or a failing grade for the entire course.

(Note: Quoting in jazz solos is not, however, considered academic dishonesty).

Tutoring

Students seeking assistance with the material presented in this course are strongly encouraged to reach out to their fellow classmates to spend time on the fret board concepts and repertoire outside of class time, as this arrangement is often mutually beneficial. Additionally, students needing further assistance are advised to meet with the instructor during office hours to address any challenges that they are not able to confront on their own.

Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester.

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Religious Holy Day Policy

Broward College, although a secular institution, is determined to accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. Classes missed due to observances of religious holy days will count as excused absences only if students provide written notice of their intended absence(s) to the instructor no later than the end of the first three meetings of class. Students are strongly encouraged to attend an office hour to catch up on any missed lecture content.