

# **Jazz Guitar Private Lessons (MVJ 1013, 1213, 1313, 2323) Course Syllabus**

## **Instructor:**

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## **Grading:**

Attendance/Participation 65% (Each of 14 lessons is worth 5%, lowest grade dropped)

Jury Performance 35%

## **Private lesson subject matter overview/course objectives:**

First and foremost, private lessons in jazz guitar aim to fill in any gaps in the student's knowledge of harmony. This includes the names of the notes on each string, the shapes of the intervals, the spelling and locating of triads, seventh chords, major scales and their modes and other structures necessary for performing pieces in the jazz canon. 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 selected. Repertoire examined will pull from the following categories:

Blues, Rhythm Changes, "Around-the-Horn" tunes, Tunes that highlight secondary dominants, Tunes that highlight modal

interchange chords, Bossa Novas, Modal Tunes, Minor Key Tunes, Three Four Tunes, Up Tempo, Ballads

A vocabulary of chord voicings appropriate to different contexts will be established through the examination of 3<sup>rd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> 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.

As students advance, focus turns towards the development of jazz vocabulary and repertoire. The primary vehicles of this development are transcription and the creation of guitar chord solos on jazz standards.