

Jazz Theory / Improvisation

Materials:

3-ring binder
Manuscript paper
Instrument
Mechanical Pencil
Portable CD player (recommended, but not required)

Textbook (supplemented with recordings):

"Jazz Theory- A Survival Guide"- Rick Stitzel

Objective:

Develop an understanding of the many facets of jazz improvisation, including important figures in history, chord symbol identification, form, and building facility on the primary instrument to properly demonstrate these concepts.

Assignments:

- Keep a weekly "riff journal" (one or two measure idea) Students will come to each class with a different "riff"
- Select an artist every three weeks to study. Collect recordings of this artist and transcribe a solo/memorize it
- Practice appropriate scales and chords
- Listen critically to jazz music in general

Final Project: (2 possibilities)

- Each student will compose a tune based on either a pre-existing chord progression or one they have conjured themselves. These will typically be done with (but not limited to) the Aebersold recordings.
- Students will collectively transcribe a tune from a recording and score it out for full jazz ensemble, which will be performed by Jazz 1 at a later concert.