

Syllabus

Time: Mon./Wed 11:30am-12:45pm
Location: Department of Music BRB 322
Instructor: Professor Gary Motley – Director of Jazz Studies
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Introduction

Before participating in the Piedmont Project, my sustainability knowledge needed improvement. I had, however, observed several initiatives being launched on campus to promote sustainability, from recycling to waste management, and these led to my curiosity about how I could make improvements. As an artist, I was challenged to think of creative ways to embrace and promote sustainability. The Piedmont Project allowed me to engage with colleagues across various disciplines to seek solutions for reducing our carbon footprint, CO₂ emissions, and other environmental concerns. My most significant contribution was using my artistry to raise student awareness about sustainability. The next step was to empower my students by connecting them with the environment through nature walks and visits to campus green spaces and using their sensory awareness to create musical works. These works serve as a premise for artistic expression and a platform for spreading the word about sustainability while nurturing students' creativity and imagination. As a liberal arts institution, Emory is committed to the development of the whole student. This mission involves creating a healthy appreciation for the many aspects of the liberal arts experience. The Piedmont Project gave me a glimpse into many areas of sustainability and my colleagues' work and research. The Piedmont project has encouraged me to explore sustainability in the arts to see how other creatives use their talents and resources to provide environmental awareness and longevity solutions.

While this music course is steeped in music theory and analysis, I have implemented many of my newfound sustainability insights to create an enhanced learning environment. In addition to the course focus, students will complete all work in a paperless environment. Further, collaborations will be encouraged. While being an active participant in sustainability is essential, it is equally important to spread the word and form alliances to promote awareness about sustainability.

Course Description

MUS 245L Jazz Theory Lab is a course supplement designed to provide students with ear training, writing, and arranging skills and experience with music notation software. Final projects will be read and recorded by a peer student jazz ensemble.

MUS 245 Jazz Theory is the applied technical study of jazz harmony focusing on the theory and improvisation aspects of the genre including repertory from the American Songbook, Swing and Bebop eras. The concepts and topics include notation; keys, scales, and modes, rhythm, and meter; triads and seventh chords, extended harmony, chord/scale relationships, Roman numeral analysis, and tonic-dominant voice leading.

The MUS 245 lab will develop students' musical literacy and creativity through ear training, transcription, writing, arranging, and improvisation exercises. Students will also gain experience with music notation software and its role in jazz ear training, composition, arranging.

Jazz and Sustainability

Despite its rich history, many societal and cultural shifts have converged, pushing jazz music to the margins. The Jazz Laboratory is a new adjunctive course designed to produce meaningful learning in jazz music theory and arranging. The laboratory is a critical lever in enabling students to reach listeners in more powerful ways and, in doing so, foster connections with producers and audiences, build communities of jazz enthusiasts, and expand their knowledge of jazz. The laboratory bolsters theoretical knowledge by providing experiential opportunities to compose and arrange jazz works for small ensembles. Designed as an experiential learning environment, the Jazz Lab will provide students with a platform for improving their aural, arranging, and composition skills. Students can create musical works that can be workshopped remotely before a public performance, reducing preproduction costs. Students will also be able to collaborate with other students anywhere globally, thanks to real-time online music recording platforms. These technology-based music composition tools experienced tremendous popularity and development during the pandemic and are quickly becoming a staple of music production. Our mission is to create a course lab supplement to acquaint our students with this sustainability-based approach to music production and performance. The jazz sustainability project described below will provide a way to collaborate with a diverse community dedicated to improving environmental efficiency and wellness in various areas of specialization, including the arts.

Honor Policy

- Students are expected to do their own work in assignments, creative work, and tests, unless specifically instructed that collaboration is acceptable. Any evidence of inappropriate collaboration will be treated as an Honor Code violation.
- Possession of or reference to the Teacher's Edition of any course materials is an Honor Code violation.
- All assignments and examinations must include the signed statement: "I agree to abide by the Emory College Honor Code" or the abbreviation, "HC: *initials*".

Attendance and Class Policy:

- Students are expected to attend every class and be punctual. Assignments must be handed-in on the day they are due unless prior arrangements have been made. Late assignments without prior arrangements will receive a grade penalty of five points for each day late. Students are encouraged to speak to the instructor in advance if there will be a problem meeting due dates.
- Participation is an essential part of this class and will be included in assessments; attendance is an essential part of participation. Therefore, ***after three absences, each additional absence will lower a student's final grade by 1%***. Students with extenuating circumstances may appeal to the Theory Committee for an exception to this policy.

Grading Scale:

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
88-89 = B+
84-87 = B
80-83 = B-
78-79 = C+
74-77 = C
70-73 = C-
68-69 = D+
64-67 = D
60-63 = D-

59 – below = F

Student Evaluation. The final course grade consists of 50% from the written theory (lecture) portion and 50% from the aural skills (lab) portion.

Lecture Grade Breakdown:

- Assignments: 50%. Graded weekly assignments from the Workbook, and occasional additional assignments.
- Short Theory Quizzes: 10%.
- Mid-term Examination: 20%
- Theory Final Examination: 20%

Lab Grade Breakdown:

- **Assignments:** 35%--Graded weekly assignments (may include: contextual listening exercises, practice transcription exercises, prepared melody/harmony/rhythmic exercises, other notation software assignments).
- **Jazz Sustainability Project:** 15% - Students will visit a campus location (TBD) to observe sustainability in action and create a brief composition that raise awareness about how jazz could be an artistic catalyst for change. Subsequent student compositions will be performed as an in-class project-see end of syllabus for more information.
- **Transcription Project:** 20%--Guidelines for the transcription project will be given at the beginning of the semester. The transcription project must be completed using Sibelius Notation Software.
- **Arranging Project:** 30%--This grade will be assessed by the successful completion of the project by the student and the successful reading and recorded performance of the arrangement by the peer student ensemble. The arranging project must be completed using Sibelius Notation Software.

Required Materials for Lecture:

Terefenko, Dariusz, *Jazz Theory: From Basic to Advanced Study*, Second Edition.
ISBN 9781138235106

Required Materials for Aural Skills Lab:

Tomaro, Mike, Wilson, John, *Instrumental Jazz Arranging: A Comprehensive and Practical Guide*, 2nd Edition, ISBN 10: 1423452747

- Headphones, ear buds, flash drive, etc.
- PROX Card/Room Access Request (including requests for practice rooms, theory lab, electronic music studio and jazz studio access): <https://emorymusic.wufoo.com/forms/x1obfdbt1663d5p/>

Topics Will Include:

Ear Training Exercises

- Interval Recognition
- Guide Tones
- Color Tones
- Chord voicing

- Voice leading
- Counterpoint

Arranging Skills

- Lead sheet preparation
- 3-part Writing for Small Ensemble
- Melodic Paraphrasing
- Countermelody
- Background Figures
- Shout Chorus
- Intros, Interludes, and endings

Sibelius Notation Software

- Lead Sheet Notation
- Piano Note/Chord Notation
- Slash Notation
- Bass Note/Chord Notation
- Drum Note/Rhythm Notation
- Small Ensemble Arranging

Jazz Sustainability Project (15%)

Jazz is not only an art form; it is a social responsibility. While it entertains, jazz can also increase awareness about the ethical concerns of our society about the environment.

For this project, students will spend a class session in a campus location that fosters an example of sustainability at Emory. Students will then create a brief (eight-measure) composition that captures the essence of the environment that inspired the work. Each student will also write a brief statement that proposes what they could do to promote environmental awareness through their music.

Paperless Productivity and Course Materials

To reduce the use of paper, printing, and other materials, all projects will be created, completed, and submitted electronically.