



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music

NZSM 449 *Topic in Jazz: Critical Improvisation Studies* **30 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 18 June 2016

Study period: 6 to 9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10 to 29 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If a student is unable to complete an assignment or sit a test or examination in the final three weeks of the trimester, they may be eligible to apply for an aegrotat pass. Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Tuesday, 10:00am–11:50am (Room MS209)

Thursday, 11:00am–11:50am (Room MS209)

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: David Cosper

Contact phone: 463 5864 **Email:** david.cosper@vuw.ac.nz

Office located at: Room 204, 92 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn Campus

Office hours: by appointment

Programme Administrator: Fiona Steedman **Email:** fiona.steedman@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Official notices issued after the course has commenced will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

Advanced study of a selected topic within jazz studies.

2016 Offering: This course is an advanced study of jazz and performance practice. This year's offering will focus on one of the most commonly identified characteristics of jazz: melodic improvisation. Through close readings of individual jazz performances, grounded in theoretical

literature on improvisation drawn from both jazz studies and the related disciplines of performance and cultural studies, we will explore the historical development of methods and ideologies of improvisation as they have proliferated throughout the jazz century.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. discern and discuss musical detail in relevant repertoire
2. discern and critically discuss significant issues and methodologies in relevant literature
3. explain and evaluate, at an advanced level, a range of critical approaches to jazz practice
4. demonstrate advanced critical thinking and verbal skills through discussion, analysis, and written work.

These learning objectives contribute to the NZSM Graduate Attributes. For a full list, please see www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/graduate-attributes

Teaching format

This course comprises one 50-minute lecture and one 110-minute lecture per week.

See attached course syllabus for more information.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must attend at least two Music Forum seminar presentations during the trimester in which the course is taught. This requirement develops aural and verbal skills in engaging with and critically assessing professional music research, consistent with the course learning objectives. Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the mandatory course requirements, because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the Course Coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

A 30-point one-trimester course should require at least 300 hours' work (including class time). This means that during the trimester, the mid-trimester break and study week you should be prepared to spend, on average, 20 hours per week involved in activities such as attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments. Specific workload demands will change from week to week, based on the assessment schedule. However, as a general rule, students should plan to devote eight to ten hours to assigned reading and listening, five to seven hours preparing written work, and three hours reviewing previous materials and preparing for tests each week.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	portfolio of critical responses to assigned materials	25%	1, 2, 3	5 March 2016 12 March 2016 19 March 2016 2 April 2016 9 April 2016 16 April 2016 14 May 2016 28 May 2016

2	take-home tests	20%	1, 2, 3	22 March 2016 21 April 2016
3	seminar presentation	20%	1, 3, 4	TBA
4	final project	proposal	10%	9 May 2016
		bibliography		21 May 2016
		outline	25%	4 June 2016
		essay		18 June 2016

Submission and return of work

Assignments should be submitted through the course Blackboard site. Marked assignments will be returned through the course Blackboard site. Assignments will normally be marked and returned within three weeks of submission.

NB: As this course is moderated, all students are requested to retain all marked assessment items, in the event that they are required at the end of the course.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Students who, for exceptional reasons, can justify an extension for an item of assessment must apply to the Course Coordinator *before* the due date. Please note that no extensions can be granted for tutorial assignments.

Penalties

Assignments must be submitted by the due dates. In fairness to other students, unless a medical certificate is produced, assessment submitted after the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit each day it is overdue.

Course materials

Assigned and recommended course materials will be made available through the course Blackboard site.

Class representative

A class representative serves to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. The class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

Official course feedback will be solicited during the second half of the academic trimester. Additional written or verbal feedback on lectures, assignments, or assessment is welcome at any time, and may be communicated to the Course Coordinator, either directly or through the Class Representative. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies, including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- NZSM Student Handbook and NZSM Guidelines for Presenting Academic Work: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides
- Scholarships and prizes relevant to NZSM students: www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/scholarships-and-prizes

Events

Regular events are held during trimesters one and two. These events are for the benefit of all students and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures, and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists. All students are expected to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 12:10pm, as well as other events as required. Music Forum will take place every Friday from 3:10pm–4:30pm, normally in the Adam Concert Room.

Students should sign up to receive the *Dawn Chorus*, the NZSM's events e-newsletter, by emailing events@nzsm.ac.nz with 'subscribe dawn chorus' in the subject line.

Website: www.nzsm.ac.nz/events