

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for MUS 46A

BEGINNING JAZZ CHOIR

Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 46A — BEGINNING JAZZ CHOIR — 1.00 units

The various aspects of performing in a vocal jazz ensemble. Emphasis on developing the rudiments of vocal jazz technique

1.00 Units Lab

Strongly Recommended

MUS 6 - Basic Music Skills

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

Family: Music Jazz Choir

	MIN
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. MUS6

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. demonstrate ensemble skills in vocal jazz and the ability to follow director;
2. sing correct pitches with accurate intonation;
3. demonstrate improvement in performance ability through dynamics, expression, phrasing and articulation;
4. improvise using appropriate scat syllables;
5. perform music from memory;
6. perform simple jazz rhythms;
7. compare, contrast and perform styles such as standard, blues, ballads, bebop, swing, Latin and contemporary jazz literature;
8. display appropriate stage appearance;
9. perform as a soloist;
10. assist with sound system set-up, take-down and operation;
11. sing with a microphone.

V. CONTENT:

A. Jazz Styles

1. Standard
2. Blues
3. Ballads
4. Bebop
5. Swing
6. Latin
7. Contemporary

B. Jazz Elements

1. Improvisation
2. Form
3. Vocal Technique
4. Vocal percussion
5. Rhythm
6. Harmony
7. Melody

C. Performance Practices

1. Stage presence

2. Attire
 3. Interaction between participants
 4. Movement
 5. Microphone technique
 6. Sound System
 7. Solo performance
 8. Ensemble performance
- D. Jazz Literature performance
1. Standard
 2. Blues
 3. Ballads
 4. Bebop
 5. Swing
 6. Latin
 7. Contemporary

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Demonstration** - Public performances in concerts, festivals and competitions.
- B. **Classroom Activity** - Rehearsals with ensembles and individually with instructor.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Develop and improvise a twelve bar blues. Use the chord changes given, and improvise your own melodic content.
- B. Memorize the bass part to "I Hear Music" by Phil Mattson.
- C. Choose a ballad to perform at the final concert.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Class Participation
3. Final Performance

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
 - a. Auditions at beginning of semester, challenges throughout semester
 - b. Weekly review of assigned musical selections
 - c. Weekly progress testing of assigned technical studies
 - d. Participation in on-campus and off-campus performances and festivals as opportunities arise
 - e. End of semester concert performance

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. David, Berkman. *The Jazz Singer's Guidebook*. First ed., Sher Music Company, 2010.
2. Dayme, Meribeth, and Cynthia Vaughan. *The Singing Book*. 3rd ed., W. W. Norton & Co., 2013.
3. Stoloff, Bob. *Vocal Improvisation: An Instru-Vocal Approach for Soloist Groups and Choirs*. First ed., Berklee Press, 2012.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Students may provide their own solo literature.