

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 17B

JAZZ COMBO 2

Effective: Spring 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 17B — JAZZ COMBO 2 — 1.00 units

For intermediate/advanced instrumentalists who want to continue what they learned in 17A by performing, composing, and arranging small-group literature. Enrollment by audition only.

1.00 Units Lab

Prerequisite

MUS 17A - Jazz Combo 1
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Music

Family: Music Jazz Combo

	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 the course a student should be able to:

A. MUS17A

1. Demonstrate advanced facility and technique in performing, composing, and arranging jazz literature
2. Rehearse effectively to ensure successful ensemble performances.
3. Demonstrate the ability to play, memorize, and interpret jazz literature in the following styles: Swing, Bossa, Fusion, Funk, Waltz, and Modern.
4. Perform with effective articulation, intonation, style, expression, blending, and balance

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Illustrate continued improvement in performing, composing, and arranging jazz literature
- B. Exhibit observable leadership skills and behaviors to increase the success of ensemble performance
- C. Compose and arrange original jazz literature
- D. Compile effective setlists, and perform as a cohesive unit
- E. Play or sing with the articulation, dynamics, phrasing, and expression as directed
- F. Perform improvised solos as applicable
- G. Demonstrate appropriate blend and balance within the ensemble and/or the section
- H. Memorize performance repertoire as directed
- I. Play or sing in time with section and ensemble as directed

V. CONTENT:

- A. Illustrate facility and technique in performing jazz literature
 1. Precise reading of rhythm
 2. Execute scales and common jazz modes such as Dorian, Mixolydian, Lydian, Locrian, etc
 3. Perform using idiomatic jazz techniques such as blue notes, turns, and syncopation
 4. Transcribe and perform solos of jazz masters such as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, etc
 5. Following the conductor as applicable
 6. Intonation
 7. Correct reading and production of pitches
 8. Tuning pitches and harmonies as a section
 9. Tuning of pitches and harmonies as an ensemble
 10. Articulation
 11. Phrasing
 12. Blend and balance

12. Correct readings of markings
13. Following the conductor's gestures as applicable
14. Agreement as a section
15. Agreement as an ensemble
- B. Compose and arrange for the combo
 1. Correct notations
 2. Appropriate styles
 3. Use of improvisation
 4. Hits, Interludes, Tags, Backgrounds
 5. Ensemble specific performance practices
 - a. Play jazz literature in a Fast Bossa Nova style
 - b. Play jazz literature in a Medium Funk style
 - c. Improvised solos as applicable
 - d. Memorization of performance repertoire as directed
 - e. Blend and Balance as an ensemble
 6. Correct tone, volume, and timbre as appropriate to ensemble
- C. Professional standard of conduct
 1. Demonstrate musical preparedness in rehearsal and performances
 2. Demonstrate professionalism with regard to attendance, attitude, deportment, and participation

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Student Presentations -**
- B. **Classroom Activity -**
- C. Outside practice
- D. **Individualized Instruction -**
- E. **Observation and Demonstration -**
- F. **Audio-visual Activity -**

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Improvisation:
 1. Transcribe a solo by Miles Davis. Isolate several passages. Learn it in all keys and then incorporate it into your own improvisation.
- B. Arranging:
 1. Choose a modern jazz standard and arrange it for the combo. The arrangement should reflect an understanding of appropriate and professional orchestration, voicings, transpositions, and formal concepts.
- C. Composition:
 1. Compose a 10-15 minute advanced piece for the combo and lead the rehearsal by pointing out key elements like form, structure, improvised sections, etc.
- D. Performance:
 1. Organize a performance in the community, and lead the group through the setlist displaying a high level of professionalism.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Quizzes
10
- B. Projects
three composition projects and three arranging projects
- C. Group Projects
five
- D. Class Participation
daily
- E. Home Work
weekly
- F. Final Class Performance
one
- G. Final Public Performance
one
- H. Other
 1. Practice - daily, using practice logs as proof

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Aebersold, Jamey. *A Practical Approach To Jazz Improvisation*. 1st e ed., Jamey Aebersold, 2015.
2. Reeves, Scott. *Creative Jazz Improvisation*. 4th ed., Pearson, 2016.
3. Hal Leonard Corp.. *The Real Bebop Book*. C Edition ed., Hal Leonard, 2017.
4. Hal Leonard Corp.. *Jazz Funk Play-Along: Real Book Multi-Tracks Volume 5*. 1st ed., Hal Leonard, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: