

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
MUSIC 9523b— Topics in Late Twentieth-Century Jazz
WINTER 2024
Dr. Peter Franck
pfranck@uwo.ca

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description. This course explores jazz music from the late 1950s to the end of the twentieth century. To help cover such a wide historical span, the course examines aspects of jazz theory and how they intersect with theoretical approaches concerning different musical genres, including, but not limited to, popular music, rock, blues, folk, country, and classical music. As a point of departure, the course begins with modal and postbop jazz, repertoires that integrate aspects of “tonal jazz” while at the same time turning away from conventional tonal practices. These repertoires include music of Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, and Chick Corea, among others. Part of the move away from tonal practices includes integration of symmetrical divisions of the octave, locally-functioning harmonies but without unequivocal tonics, absence or suppression of harmonic function, common structure progressions, pedal points, and modally-ambiguous sonorities (Waters 2019, 3–4). Study of this repertoire provides a foundation for exploring, not only, compositional practices of its representative works, but also those of works from later repertoires, such as jazz-rock fusion, typically abbreviated as “fusion.” All the artists listed above, save for Coltrane, became pioneers of fusion, combining aspects of rock, such as groove, amplified instruments, vamp progressions, etc., with those of jazz. Additionally, they spurred on, and in some cases, mentored, a younger generation of artists, including Pat Metheny, John Scofield, Jaco Pastorius, Mike Stern, and Hiram Bullock, among others. This course endeavors to examine this eclectic repertoire by studying its compositions and improvisations, and completing select readings from the music-theory, jazz, rock, and popular-music literature. Students taking the course are required to complete weekly assignments and readings, an in-seminar presentation, and a final paper.

Course Learning Outcomes. By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- compile a knowledge base of primary and secondary literature concerning jazz and other popular-music genres, such as rock, pop, and blues
- implement a variety of analytical approaches to works within the late-twentieth-century jazz repertoire
- make connections between music theories of Western art music and jazz

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts:

Terefenko, Dariusz. 2014. *Jazz Theory: From Basic to Advanced Study*. Routledge.

Waters, Keith. 2019. *Postbop Jazz in the 1960s: The Compositions of Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, and Chick Corea*. Oxford University Press.

Music streaming (recommended). Since many of the recordings discussed throughout the course are not available through the Western Libraries catalogue, it is recommended that students have access to a music streaming service, such as Apple Music, Spotify, etc. Some of these services, e.g., Apple Music, have student subscription rates.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Requirements. Students are required to complete the following:

- weekly assignments and readings
- a presentation to the seminar based on the final paper
- a final paper that applies music-theoretic and analytical techniques learned throughout the semester to musical works and/or systems pertaining to the late-twentieth-century jazz repertory

Marking Scheme:

Assignments	25%
Presentation (based on final paper topic):	25%
Final paper:	50%
Course mark:	100%

ASSESSMENTS AND MATERIALS OVERVIEW

Posting of Assignments. All assignments will be posted to OWL.

Handing in Assignments. Assignments will be handed in on the days for which they are scheduled (see “Class Schedule” on OWL). Explicit instructions on how to do this will be provided by the instructor.

Handouts, readings, and related class materials. Students must print out and/or have available handouts, readings, and related materials for each week. Readings are assigned on a weekly basis

if not stated otherwise. See the “Class Schedule” for the complete list of readings (**N.B., the reading for the first class**). Students must read, prepare, and be able to discuss within class, each reading. Handouts, readings, and related materials for each week are available on OWL by clicking on the appropriate week number located on the left side of the OWL site. The week number and the topic/reading to which it corresponds appears within the “Class Schedule” on OWL.

Handing in Final Paper. The final paper will be handed in beneath the door of my office (room-number available on OWL) on the due date indicated on the “Class Schedule.” Additionally, an electronic copy of the final paper will be uploaded to OWL on the same day (details to follow during the semester). Late submissions will not be accepted.

POLICIES

Marking scale: A= 80–100%, B=70–79%, C=60–69%, F=0–59%.

Medical Accommodation. The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student’s ability to fulfill academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by illness or injury. To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s course grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student could not reasonably be expected to meet the academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor. Students with special learning needs or other circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be considered.

Academic Offences. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Contingency Plan. Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Examinations & Attendance. Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the

department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Electronic Devices in Classrooms. The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Plagiarism Detection Software Usage. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism, which includes AI writing detection tools. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Intellectual Property. Concerning course materials, I, Peter Franck, own the intellectual property (IP) in all the lectures and lecture materials posted online. Given this fact, students are not to post lectures or lecture materials to any other websites or platforms or use the lecture recording or materials for any other purpose without my consent. Students are also prohibited from recording live lectures and recorded lectures.

RESOURCES

Accessible Education Western. Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Mental Health & Wellness. Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence. Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519-661-3568.

Religious Accommodation. When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies). Further information can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf