

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**MUSC-122**

**Jazz Improvisation I**

**2 Semester Hours**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

This course offers a step by step approach to the art and science of jazz improvisation by focusing on the basic elements of music: sound, rhythm, melody, harmony, and form. The student will learn how to create and develop musical ideas and play them in a jazz style. The course will include basic ear training exercises as well as some transcription of jazz solos. The student will develop a greater awareness of musical style and structure through the use of a variety of listening exercises. The student must be able to read music and possess basic technical proficiency on his/her instrument. (2-3 hours weekly)

### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. Improvise a solo on a basic blues chord progression.
2. Improvise a solo based on the melody of a standard jazz composition.
3. Learn how to develop musical ideas and create energy and intensity in his/her solos.
4. Identify chord tones and non-chord tones in a given melody, and understand the musical process of dissonance, consonance, and resolution.
5. Play jazz rhythms and articulations successfully.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Jazz rhythm and articulation.
- II. Basic jazz ear training.
- III. Improvisation over simple, standard chord progressions.

### **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams:

Writing: The student will complete specific written composition assignments.

Performance: The student will complete specific composition assignments in realtime (improvise) on his/her chosen instrument.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an Arts and Sciences elective, a Fine Arts elective, and a Humanities elective.