

MUT 4365 JAZZ ARRANGING 1

Spring 2026

Course Meeting Time and Location: TBA. Student schedules will be collected to find the best time for the class to meet.

Credit Hours: 2 credits

Instructor: Clyde Connor (email: cjconnor@ufl.edu) **Office Location:** School of Music: Room 335

Jazz Office Location: School of Music: Room 354

Office Hours: TBA. The instructor assigned to the course will post their office hours for Room 354.

Jazz Director Information: swilson@arts.ufl.edu / **Office phone:** 435-851-6363

Course Description:

This course provides instruction in jazz composition and arranging and provides the basic techniques for commercial song writing. Students will study chord movement, melodic development techniques and composition techniques for various styles of music. Students will complete several small group arrangements and original jazz compositions.

Prerequisites: Commercial Music Theory and Practice 2 and Jazz Improvisation with a B or better grade.

Course Objectives/Goals

This course is vital to ensure that our music graduates have the opportunity to learn the basic composition and arranging skills that will enable them to be competitive in the commercial music industry. This course covers the writing styles of jazz, smooth jazz, rock, pop, latin, salsa, and dixieland. The instruction received in Jazz Arranging 1 will contribute to the financial success and diversity for students who complete this course.

Representative Text and/or Materials: **Basics in Jazz Arranging** by Paris Rutherford (\$19.95)

<http://www.jwpepper.com/10392653.item#.VoQ1ifkrKUk> [Links to an external site.](#)

Renowned educator and writer Paris Rutherford has adapted the text he used for over 30 years in teaching university-level instrumental arranging at one of the most illustrious jazz schools. For anyone wanting to enter the exciting world of jazz arranging, this book and CD is a must-have resource. Useful as a classroom teaching tool for beginning arrangers or as a self-study book, this clearly written and engaging text will get novice arrangers off to a great start! Also included are Rutherford's original compositions and

small group charts, along with a CD that features both full performances and rhythm-section-only tracks for personal or group practice.

JAZZ ARRANGING 1 GRADESHEET

NAME: _____

ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

10 points - Student must write down 5 tune names with ABAB song form. **Score:** _____

10 points - Students must write down 5 tune names with AABA song form. **Score:** _____

30 points - Copy out a jazz standard. Must be written by hand (pencil/paper) **Score:** _____

20 points - Using the chord matrix, write a chord progressions that is 8 to 12 bars (chords only) **Score:** _____

20 points - Using the chord matrix, write a chord progressions that is 8 to 12 bars (chords only) **Score:** _____

40 points - Worksheet: Brain Teaser for Building Lightning – Fast Note Recognition. **Score:** _____

45 points - Worksheet: Using Polychords To Make Complex Harmony Simple. **Score:** _____

50 points - Song analysis of Kiss That Told Me (follow guidelines in Weekly assignments)

Score: _____

50 points – Song analysis of View For Kings (follow guidelines in Weekly assignments)

Score: _____

50 points – Write A Combo Tune With Ease #1 (follow guidelines in Weekly assignments)

Score: _____

50 points – Write A Combo Tune With Ease #1 (follow guidelines in Weekly assignments)

Score: _____

50 points – Write a Contrafact (standard chords changes with originally composed melody)

Sc

ore: _____

50 points – In Class Test: Each student will be asked 5 chords to fully extend on piano (Five seconds to play each) **Score:** _____

50 points - In Class Test: Write out 2 forms of the 12 bar blues exactly as illustrated in Writing Your First Combo Tune. **Score:** _____

50 points - Writing Bass Lines Worksheet (Swing, Half Time, Funk, Boss, Samba). **Score:**_____

30 points – In Class Test: Each student will have to play 3 chord progressions from the 3 chord to the 1 chord using the Wilson chord matrix. For example, you can play 3,6, 2, 5, or 3, b3, 2, 5, 1 or 3, 6, 2, b2, 1, etc. **Score:** _____

25 points – In Class Presentation – Each student will do 2 minute presentation on the Melodic Development of a jazz standard. **Score:**_____

80 points – In Class Jazz Arranging Test. Test on book contains information on: Density, Developers, Super Structure, Middle Section, Recapitulation and Endings, Timing Your Music, Lead Sheet, and 3 Line Sketch **Score:**_____

50 points - Write an original tune using common chord progressions that you have modify **Score:**_____

50 points - Arrange 2 horn arrangement of a jazz standard (may not be unison the entire time). **Score:** _____

50 points – Complete Writing For Strings Worksheet **Score:**_____

50 points – Write 8 bars for String Quartet. **Score:** _____

90 points – Arrange one 3 horn arrangement of a jazz standard or a pop tune with lyrics, vocals and strings. Must turn in recording of tune for this final project. **Score:**_____

TOTAL 1000 points

EVALUATIONS AND GRADES

Read the *Jazz Arranging Score Sheet* which contains the list of all assignments and grades. Also read the *Jazz Arranging 17 Week Layout* for a list of weekly assignments.

GRADING SCALE AND CALCULATING YOUR GRADE

1000 Point Scale for Final Grade Calculation

1000 – 920 A

919 – 900 A -

899 - 850 B+

849 - 820 B

819- 800 B-

799 - 750 C +

749 - 720 C

719- 700 C-

699 - 650 D+

649 - 620 D

619- 600 D-

599 and below E

Resource: UF Grading Policy

Website: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>
[Links to an external site.](#)

Required materials include:

- Materials and Score Paper for projects.
- A recording device (or access to a computer-based recording program)
- Required Text

Attendance Policy

Any unexcused absences will lower the final grade automatically 1/2 a letter grade, i.e. ...1 unexcused = A to A-, 2 unexcused = A- to B, etc. All excused absences will require the proper written documentation that the student has been excused from school during the time in question. Without this approval we cannot excuse the absence.

Make-ups for Exams or Other Work

In order to remain fair to all students enrolled in this course who are held to the same academic standard, make-ups for any assignment will require written documentation that the student has been excused from school during the time in question. Without this approval we cannot issue a make-up. This includes all requests for permission to grant a make-up for personal issues involving family, work, deaths, hardships, marriages, pregnancies, illnesses, financial problems, etc. We do apologize for this inconvenience,

however, in order to be ethically in good standing, this documentation is needed to ensure the accuracy of all claims made.

Recording of Masterclasses and Online Meetings

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Resource: UF Grading Policy Website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>Links to an external site..

Students with disabilities

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

Academic Honesty

At the University of Florida every student signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University.” The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing is subject to an automatic E and further disciplinary action. All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception. <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

**If you are repeating this course at UF, please be aware that turning in any part of any written assignment that you submitted for this course in the past also constitutes academic misconduct. See “Scope and Violations” under the Honor Code above.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>Links to an external site..

Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

It is the policy of the University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. This includes information sent through e-mail. Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in any form will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. For more specific information, please see www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass (Located in the General Information section of the University Catalog.)

Campus Resources and Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care websiteLinks to an external site.](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center websiteLinks to an external site.](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center websiteLinks to an external site.](#)

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department websiteLinks to an external site.](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,

Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center websiteLinks to an external site.](#)

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk Links to an external site.](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections CenterLinks to an external site.: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library SupportLinks to an external site.: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching CenterLinks to an external site.: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more informationLinks to an external site.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint ProcessLinks to an external site.](#)

In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/Links to an external site.> Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/Links to an external site.> Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/Links to an external site.>

JAZZ ARRANGING 1 ASSIGNMENTS FOR WEEKS 1 - 16

Details of assignments and grading.

WEEK 1

This week is reserved for getting registered, getting the text book and scheduling a class meeting time.

1. Read Chapter 1 from the Basics in Jazz Arranging text book.

WEEK 2 Chapter 1 from the Basics in Jazz Arranging text book.

Discussions on ABAB Song Forms AABA Song Forms. See Page 6 for examples: "*Standard Tunes Listed By Their Song Form*"

Discussion on Arranger's Piano. We will review the F to F rule on Piano for voicing the core of the harmony.

Discussions on Page 4 of the textbook on Arrangers Piano. Lead the class in knowing how to describe the following.

- A. Three up, One Down
- B. Three up, Two Down
- C. Four up, One Down

1. Student must write down 5 tune names with ABAB song form. (10 points)
2. Students must write down 5 tune names with AABA song form. (10 points)
3. Copy out a jazz standard. Must be written by hand (no computer copies)
Write out a standard of your choice using the following guidelines (Read Adapting the Melody on page 16 of the jazz arranging book). (30 points)
 - A. Determine the style
 - B. Select the best key for the solo instrument or voice.
 - C. Make simple adjustments to the rhythm of the melody to match style.
 - D. Notate the material accurately for performers. Please see below.

NOTE: Notating rhythms correctly will be a core focus to this assignment!

Check out the rhythm sheets in the Ultimate Jazz Took Kit and remember how beats 1 and 2 should be separated from 3 and 4. This allows musicians to easily read your music and that makes your music sound better! Rhythms notated incorrectly will be returned to the student to correct.

WEEK 3

Turn in Jazz Standard written out with correct rhythms. Turn in 5 song names with ABAB form and 5 song names with AABA song for.

Download from Canvas "Identifying Standard Puzzle Pieces" and the "Wilson Chord Matrix" and at this time listed to the MP3 "Tune Puzzle Pieces MP3s." They are a set and go together and the MP3 plays the examples listed in the Chapter on "Identifying Standard Puzzle Pieces." Take a very close looks at the Wilson Matrix that we talked about in class and the 9 chord progressions illustrated in "Identifying Standard Puzzle Pieces."

1. Using the chord matrix, write 2 chord progressions that are 8 to 12 bars. Be able to talk about why you selected these specific changes and why they are clever or different. Turn in both examples on one piece of staff paper with your name at the top. We will play your examples in class. Make sure you list the style and tempo. (25 points each)
2. The following worksheets that are due Week 4 (you can turn them in next class).
WORKSHEET - (40 points possible) (Ultimate Workbook page 52) Brain Teaser For Building Lightning-Fast Note Recognition
WORKSHEET - (45 points possible) (Ultimate Workbook page 27 and 28) Using Polychords to Make Complex Harmony Simple (building fully extended 13th chords)

LOOKING AHEAD

Know the simple concept behind extending major, minor and dominant chords so you can target interesting melody notes in your compositions. There will be a playing test on 2 over 1 in Week 7 so start working on the basics of playing the 1 chord in your left hand and two chord in your right hand. In the Ultimate Jazz Tool Kit, you have Building Basic Extended Chords which details extending these chords. With regards to Dom7b9b13 which is b2min/1, you can put the root and b7th in your left hand and b2 minor in your right for economy.

WEEK 4

Turn in Worksheets and the 2 chord progressions due from the assignments in Week 3.

WEEK 5

Turn in an analysis of standard jazz tune.

Discussion on several jazz standards in which students will be able to identify the Tune Puzzle Pieces present in the tune. Students will also begin to be able to discuss exactly why the melody is working. (i.e. the motif's used, themes, call and answer, form, active vs static melody, developers, artistic chord movement, use of style, complete and incomplete cadences, etc.

1. Download "Writing A Combo Tune With Ease" from the Drop Box. Students will have to write out 2 original melodies to two of the 12 bar blues examples (staff paper provided in the PDF). You must use forms of the blues as illustrated in "Writing Your First Blues." You must primarily use the blues scale as your main melodic content and you must follow AAB form in the melody (i.e You Ain't Nothin But a Hound Dog). The purpose of this song writing exercise is to think very simply and quickly and use a simple song form and

what you know to quickly write a catchy tune. This exercise should take you no more than 30 minutes if you are doing it correctly.
(50 points each)

WEEK 6

Turn in 2 original melodies to two of the 12 bar blues examples outlines in Week 5 assignments.

Discussion: Writing for the Bass player.

1. Listen to Big Band Audio Examples on Dropbox
2. In each example, identify the minute mark when the bass player starts walking the bass.
3. We will analyze a Ron Carter Bass Transcription.
4. A Bass player will demonstrate what bass players do for swing, half time feel, funk, bossa, and samba.
5. Write a Contrafact on a jazz standard. A Contrafact is a tune that uses standard chords changes yet has a new originally composed melody. In your original Contrafact melody, use clearly identifiable motifs and rhythms. You must write the melody for tenor sax. If you have never written for tenor, get with a sax player in the building and have them play the instrument for you and tell you about it. Review the instrument transposition in the Ultimate Jazz Tool Kit in the Writing A Combo Tune With Ease chapter. (50 points)
6. Prepare for in class test in Week 7 and Week 8.

WEEK 7

Turn in Contrafact on jazz standard from assignment in Week 6.

1. **IN CLASS TEST.** Each student will be asked 5 chords to fully extend on piano (Major 13 #11, Minor 13, Dom7 #11,13 and Dom7b9b13). Using the 2 over 1 concept students have to be able to play in 5 seconds each chord. 50 points possible (each one is worth 10 points)
 2. **IN CLASS TEST.** Each student will have to by memory identically write out 2 forms of the 12 bar blues illustrated in Writing Your First Combo Tune. Exact Chords only! (25 points each)
 2. Discussion on Writing Bass Lines Worksheet – (50 points)
 3. Prepare for Week 8 in class test.
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WEEK 8

Turn in Writing Bass Lines Worksheet.

1. **IN CLASS TEST:** Each student will have to play 3 chord progressions on the piano from the 3 chord to the 1 chord using the Wilson chord matrix. You will be asked why you made the selection and what you like about the sound. For example, you can play 3, 6, 2, 5, 1 or 3, b3, 2, 5, 1 or 3, 6, 2, b2, 1, etc. Keep in mind that any chord in a tune can be approached in this same manner with very colorful results. (30 points)
2. Read about Developers in the Jazz Arranging Book.
3. Homework is to prepare for the presentation next week in WEEK 9.

WEEK 9

Discussions about instrument ranges. We will have a demonstration with live horns and you can ask questions to the performers regarding writing for their instrument.

Discussion of a 3 Line Sketch.

Discussion on how and when to use Density.

Discussion on Developers. Each student will take 1 minutes to sight a developer in a jazz standard.

Discussion of Change Bass and Substitute Chord Changes, Sus Chords and Modulations.

1. Each student will do a 2 minute presentation on the melodic development in a jazz standard they have selected. Answer the question of "What Makes Is So Great!?" You will also identify to the class the common chord progressions used in the tune such as the 2, 5, 1 or 6, 2, 5, 1, or 5, 1, 4 or #4, 7, 3, or that uses some form of 3, 6, 2, 5, 1 to get to the 1 chord (ie. 3, b3, 2, 5, 1, etc.) (25 points).
2. Study for Jazz Arranging Test. Test on book contains information on: Density, Developers, Super Structure, Middle Section, Recapitulation and Endings, Timing Your Music, Lead Sheet, 3 Line Sketch, etc. You will be given an outline on material that will be tested on.

WEEK 10

In Class Jazz Arranging Test This Week (80 points).

Discussion on how to modify chords, come up with intros, use modal harmony, extend cadences, modulations, change of style, etc.

1. Write an original tune using common chord progressions that you modify. (50 points)

WEEK 11

Turn in original tune using common chord progression that you modified (Week 10 assignment)

Discussions on writing for the saxophones section, trombone section, trumpet section and rhythm section. This class will be held in Jazz Band Rehearsal. We will meet in the Steinbrenner at 4pm on Thursday.

WEEK 12

Arrange a 2 horn arrangement of a jazz standard. At the minimum, students must use harmony in several key places (cannot be unison the entire way through). (50 points)

WEEK 13

Perform 2 horn arrangements in class

WEEK 14

Discussion on Pop Song Writing

- A. Understanding Pop Melodies
- B. The Hook
- C. The Production
- D. The Mix, The Market, The Video

1. Write a 3 horn arrangement of a jazz standard or original pop song. If students write a pop song, they have lyrics and vocals. (90 points)

WEEK 15

Writing For Strings.

- 1. Examples of strings instruments and how to write for the String Quartet.
- 2. Examples will be written in real time on the board and the string ensemble will play.
- 3. Complete Writing For String Worksheets. (50 points)

WEEK 16

Turn in 3 horn arrangement of a jazz standard or, a pop song with lyrics, vocals and strings.

- 1. Write 8 bars for String Quartet. Try to complete this exercise within 30 minutes. See Ultimate Jazz Workbook for the Sheet Music and instrument ranges. (50 points)

Performance of final projects if not already recorded.