

<b>Course Syllabus:</b> <b>MUS 108.2 Introduction to Jazz Theory and Arranging</b> <b>Summer 2025</b> <b>9:00am-5:00pm</b> <b>Foy Hall, South Campus, Moravian College</b>	<b>Instructor: Dr. Neil Wetzel</b> <b>Office phone: (610) 861-1621</b> <b>Email: wetzeln@moravian.edu</b> <b>Cell: 267-471-6852</b>
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### Course Description

Introduction to Jazz Theory and Arranging is a ½ unit course that explores the basics of jazz music theory, composing and arranging. Students will take this course in conjunction with enrollment in the “Summer Jazz Camp @ Moravian.”

### Goals of the Course

In this course the student will:

- Review music theory elements and utilize jazz harmonies and scales.
- Compose 2 jazz compositions in varying forms
- Arrange a jazz selection for small jazz ensemble
- Study and identify historically pertinent jazz composers and arrangers (past and contemporary)
- Record student’s musical (jazz) works
- Write about a historically important and influential jazz composer/arranger

### Required Texts:

- *Alfred’s Essentials of Jazz Theory, Complete 1-3; Book & CD* by Shelly Berg
- Select Jamey Aebersold CD/Book sets from the possible list:
  - Volume 40, *Round Midnight*. Jamey Aebersold, 1992.
  - Volume 65, *Four and More*. Jamey Aebersold, 2000.
  - Volume 22 *Favorite Standards*. Jamey Aebersold, 1999.
  - Volume 48 *Duke Ellington*. Jamey Aebersold, 1999.

### Attendance:

- Attendance at all classes and seminars is mandatory. Sessions missed but accompanied by a physician’s note will be considered an “excused absence.”
- Showing up 10 minutes past the scheduled start of the assigned meeting time will be counted as an unexcused absence.

### Grading:

- Student will be graded on:
  - Attendance and class participation (10%)
  - Preparedness of assigned reading, writing and projects.
    - Assignments from text (*Alfred’s Essentials of Jazz Theory*) (20%)
    - New Jazz Composition I (10%)
    - New Jazz Composition II (10%)
    - Arrangement for jazz ensemble (10%)
    - Jazz Listening Quiz (10%)
    - Jazz Recording (10%)
    - Jazz Arranger/Composer Research Paper (20%)

## Assignments:

- Complete assigned Units (reading and completing the Review Homework pages) from assigned text (*Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory*)
  - Units 1 & 2 in the week previous to the workshop
  - Units 3 & 4 during the week of classes/on-campus
  - Units 5 & 6 the week following classes/on-campus
- Compose 2 new jazz works:
  - Create a new “blues-based” composition (due end of week of classes done while on-campus):
    - In typical lead-sheet fashion
    - using music notation software
    - based on the 12 bar blues form with basic harmonic substitutions
    - With a melody that is new and original
  - Compose a new jazz composition (due one week after the last day of classes completed off-campus):
    - In typical lead-sheet fashion
    - using music notation software
- Arrange a jazz tune (due one week after the last day of on-campus classes) that meets the following criteria:
  - Is at least 16 measures long
  - Includes at least one transposing instrument.
  - Includes 2 rhythm instruments and includes a minimum of 4 instruments total.
  - Includes a score and individual parts (digital or hand-written)
- Students will identify historically pertinent jazz compositions and arrangements by completing a “drop-the-needle” exam (due end of week of classes while on-campus) including pre-determined jazz recordings by past and contemporary jazz arrangers and composers including:
  - Jelly Roll Morton
  - Duke Ellington
  - Charlie Parker
  - Charles Mingus
  - Ornette Coleman
  - Wayne Shorter
  - Gil Evans
  - Maria Schneider
  - Gordon Goodwin
- Record one of the student’s musical works created during the course (completed during the week of classes while on-campus); students will attend lectures, discussion, and sit “behind the mixing board” while exploring the basics of sound recording:
  - Student will create a recording of one of his/her composition or arrangement.
  - The students will perform on the recording as part of the featured ensemble.
- Student will write a research paper (due two weeks after on-campus class meetings end) on one of the following great jazz composers/arrangers (students’ choice):
  - Jelly Roll Morton
  - Duke Ellington
  - Charlie Parker
  - Charles Mingus
  - Ornette Coleman
  - Wayne Shorter
  - Maria Schneider
  - Gordon Goodwin

**Content:**

**1st Week (Previous to the Summer Jazz Camp @ Moravian classes and completed off-campus)**

- Preparation of assigned music/compositions:
  - Complete assigned Units (reading and completing the Review Homework pages) from assigned text (*Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory*)
  - Units 1 & 2 review pages completed
- Prepare instructor selected jazz tunes from the Jamey Aebersold book/CD series. These will be performed during the first day of classes (on-campus).

**2nd Week (During the 5 days of course meetings on campus) students will attend the following session/classes as part of the Summer Jazz Camp @ Moravian (sample schedule copied below):**

- Complete Units 3 & 4 during from the text (*Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory*)
- Jazz Improvisation Class and Workshop
- Jazz Theory for Composers
- Jazz Arranging for Small and Large Groups (including two private lessons in arranging/composing)
- Jazz History/Listening Class
- Jazz Composition
- Ensemble Rehearsals
  - Big Band (large groups)
  - Combo (small groups)
- Introduction to Theory and Arranging Seminar

***TENTATIVE HOURS/SCHEDULE***

9:15-10:35 Recording Techniques Class	9:15-10:35 Jazz History and Listening Class	9:15-10:35 Recording Techniques Class	9:15-10:35 Jazz Composing & Arranging Class	9:15-10:35 Piano Techniques Class
10:40-noon Jazz Theory/Improv Class	10:40-noon Jazz Composing & Arranging Class	10:40-noon Jazz Theory/Improv Class	10:40-noon Jazz History and Listening Class	10:40-noon Recording Techniques Class
1:00-2:20 Combo Rehearsal Laboratory	1:00-2:20 Combo Rehearsal Laboratory	1:00-2:20 Combo Rehearsal Laboratory	1:00-2:20 Combo Rehearsal Laboratory	1:00-2:20 Combo Rehearsal Laboratory
3:00-4:00 Big Band Rehearsal	3:00-4:00 Big Band Rehearsal	3:00-4:00 Big Band Rehearsal	3:00-4:00 Big Band Rehearsal	3:00-4:00 Big Band Rehearsal
5:00-6:00 Jazz Theory and Arranging Seminar	5:00-6:00 Jazz Theory and Arranging Seminar	5:00-6:00 Jazz Theory and Arranging Seminar	5:00-6:00 Jazz Theory and Arranging Seminar	5:00-6:00 Jazz Theory and Arranging Seminar

**3rd Week (one week following the Summer Jazz Camp @ Moravian: off-campus)**

- Student will do research on selected jazz arranger/composer for research project
- Complete Units 5 & 6 readings and assignments from text *Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory*
- All project/assignments are due one week after the final concert of the **Summer Jazz Camp @ Moravian**

**4th Week (two weeks following the Summer Jazz Camp @ Moravian: off-campus)**

- Student will complete any leftover assignments.
- Jazz arranger/composer research paper is due

**Attendance:** Please note that attendance accounts for part of your grade. Unexcused absences will result in a point deduction from your grade. If you arrive in class more than ten minutes late, you will be considered absent (exceptions: weather problems or other circumstances beyond your control).

**Academic Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to follow the Academic Code of Conduct all times.

**Disability support statement:** Moravian University strives to create a learning environment that is accessible to all students. If you are experiencing or anticipate experiencing disability-related barriers to learning in your courses, you should contact the Office of Disability and Accommodations (ODA) at [oda@moravian.edu](mailto:oda@moravian.edu). If you are registered with ODA and have a current accommodation letter, please share your letter with me (the instructor) as soon as possible so that we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. To receive any academic accommodation that is not granted or offered to all students equally, you must be appropriately registered with ODA. The ODA works with students confidentially and only discloses disability-related information on a need-to-know basis or with the student's permission. To contact the Office of Disability and Accommodations (ODA), located in Reeves Library, call 610-861-1401, or email [oda@moravian.edu](mailto:oda@moravian.edu).

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