

Jazz Guitar

MUS 195/196/197/397, section 023, Fall 2011

Instructor: **Robert A. Russell**

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Course description:

Weekly private lesson in jazz guitar, supplemented by weekly seminars.

Objectives:

Students will learn:

- facilitated techniques for playing jazz on the guitar;
- to play literature drawn from traditional and modern jazz repertoire;
- to enhance interpretation through appropriate idiomatic improvisational skills.

Corequisites, etc:

Seminars:

Music majors are required to attend a weekly jazz guitar seminar [Tuesdays, 3:30 PM, except for the last week of each month]. **There is also a required monthly departmental seminar held on the last Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM. All music majors must attend this seminar.** Non-majors are not required to attend seminars but may find them helpful. For majors, unsatisfactory seminar attendance will reduce your final grade by one minus increment (e.g., A to A-, B- to C, etc.).

Concert Attendance:

As stated in the Department of Music's *Student Handbook*, applied music students are required to furnish their applied music instructor with proof of eight concert attendances per semester. Unsatisfactory concert attendance will affect your final grade, as does seminar attendance (see above). Attendance is **required** for any on-campus concert featuring jazz guitar - this applies to student concerts as well as guest artists!

Required:

Student may be required to purchase exercise books, methods, etc. depending on individual needs.

Guitar in good playable condition; electric guitar preferred.

Electronic guitar tuner.

Recommended:

Students may find the following books (for reference) helpful:

The Real Book; *The New Real Book* series; *The Charlie Parker Omnibook*;

The Advancing Guitarist by Mick Goodrick.

Small personal recorder (to record lessons or as a practice tool)

Attendance:

Except in cases of documented emergency, absences will absolutely **not** be excused unless you have made a timely and prior effort to notify me. Lessons missed will not be excused except under extenuating circumstances (injury, illness, death in family). **Attendance will directly affect grade; more than two unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade for each absence.**

We have much material to cover. You should be tuned up and ready to play at the start of your lesson.

Responsibilities:

Each lesson should be prepared for as though it were a performance.

A successful student in this course will devote a number of practice hours each day *at least* equivalent to the number of credit hours given for the lesson. (MUS 195 = 1 hour daily; MUS 196 = 2 hours daily; MUS 197 or 397 = 3 hours daily).

Grading:

Evaluation will be largely based on instructor's assessment of level and quality of work completed. Student will receive a grade from A to F for each lesson. You may ask to be told your lesson grade average at any time.

Instructor will terminate any lesson in which the student is clearly unprepared. That lesson grade will be a zero.

There will be a final jury exam (at instructor's discretion for minors), date to be announced at least two weeks before exam is administered. Jury sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside CAB 1086; students are to sign up for "Jazz" jury exam times as follows:

MUS 195 students: 5 minute jury; MUS 196 students: 10 minute jury;

MUS 197/397 students: 15 minute jury.

Each student will generally be required to memorize *at least* five tunes each semester from a graded repertoire list (available online at: <http://www.uncw.edu/music/documents/RepertoireRequirements.pdf>) according to course level. To pass a tune, student must be able to play the melody, comp changes and improvise on changes, **all from memory**.

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Lesson grade average, 75%.

Jury exam grade (average of all observer grades), 25%.

Unsatisfactory lesson attendance, concert and/or seminar attendance will reduce your final grade as described in previous paragraphs.