

Improvisation

Spring 2021 Mike Giles #255

Objectives & Policies

This course begins January 25th and ends March 5th. You must be registered in order to receive credit. This portion of the course works in conjunction with an arranging & orchestration component, serving as the final semester of underclassmen theory. This class is ideally offered in a face-to-face format but, considering the fluid situation of everchanging health protocol, it may be taught completely online or in a hybrid fashion. Office hours will be made by appointment, and may happen either in-person or virtually. Over the span of this course, several musical aspects will be introduced, reviewed, discussed, and explored. In-class exercises will be presented to and then expected from each student. Bring your primary instrument each time, and be prepared to perform with it. A piano will be provided. You will be required to record performances in class with your own preferred method and submit homework via email, using mp3 & pdf formats exclusively. Materials will be available on CyBox, Canvas, and via university email.

Learning Outcomes

The objective of this course is to introduce all musicians to the world of improvisation, a skill that sharpens music theory, demands technical proficiency, encourages creative thought, improves music performance, and offers insight into music education. It is not limited nor taught with preference to a particular musical genre.

Disability Considerations

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need. This information is confidential.

Grading Criteria

Grading considerations include attendance, perceived effort, and performance on the assignments. Daily participation points will be given and constitute a significant amount of the grade for this portion of the course. There are no makeups for these points. Attendance is strongly encouraged. Absences will be noted. Excused absences work in accordance with ISU policies, and must include email/text notification **prior** to class in the case of illness. Be sure to present appropriate documentation for excused absences. Two unexcused absences will equal the lowering of your grade by one letter. Late work will be accepted until the expiration of the announced final date/time of submission. Your grade in this portion of the class will be calculated along with the following portion of the course, and you will receive a composite final grade.

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building

Covid-19 Requirements

Students are responsible for abiding by the university's COVID-19 health and safety expectations. Go to: <https://www.dso.iastate.edu/guidance-for-supporting-community-expectations-during-covid-19-pandemic>

All students attending this class in-person are required to: 1) properly wear a face covering and/or face shield, covering the nose and mouth, while in classrooms, laboratories, studios, offices, and other learning spaces. It is important to remember that a face covering and/or face shield is required to be worn whenever you are on campus, in the presence of others, and unable to maintain physical distance; 2) practice physical distancing to the extent possible; 3) assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment; 4) not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19; 5) not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.

Follow the faculty member's guidance with respect to these requirements. Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.

The First Amendment

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom, in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech, as long as student expression in a class context is both germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.