

Course Syllabus

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Rhythm 2A Syllabus

Spring 2015 Semester

CRN: 4958

Schedule: Mondays, 6:00 to 7:50 p.m.

Instructor: Arun Luthra, www.SweetSoulSound.com ↗ (<http://www.SweetSoulSound.com>)

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1) Course Description

The first (Fall) semester covers principles of rhythmic notation and performance, in a variety of jazz styles including straight-ahead, Afro-Cuban, calypso, Brazilian, funk, and ballad feels, and works on further developing your skills in rhythmic transcription and sight-reading. In the class, we examine defining time in one's playing, relationship to the beat and swing feels, as well feels in Afro-Cuban rhythms and the relationship of 6/8 and 4/4 claves, Brazilian grooves, and funk feels; we examine accompaniment and rhythm section/soloist interaction, phrasing, and use of space; and we look at rhythmic development of motifs (through repetition, displacement, diminution, augmentation, truncation, extension, fragmentation, and ornamentation) in the context of jazz compositions and solos. In the first semester, there is emphasis on 4/4 feels, and cross-rhythms on 4/4 are introduced.

Please note: In Fall semester we focus on 4/4 (all different aspects). In the Spring semester we will do everything other than straight 4/4: Odd meters, Changing Meters, Metric Modulation, Rhythmic Superimposition, Cross-rhythms on odd meters, rhythmic practices from South Indian, African music, and other World musics and their relationship to jazz, layering rhythms, etc...

2) Student assignments, tests, and other evaluation procedures

Objective tests **may** consist of a series of in-class quizzes through the semester, and **there will be** a mid-term and a final exam. The final exam will be given on or around the 8th class session, and the final exam on the 14th class session. The contents of any quizzes and of the final exam include transcription of brief examples, some with 2-3 simultaneous parts; correction of rhythmic notation that violates notation principles discussed in class; analysis or creation of examples of developing a rhythmic motif using practices discussed in class; identification or notation of some specific traditional rhythms reviewed, such as Afro-Cuban claves, Brazilian rhythms, guaguanco, etc

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3) Criteria for grading

The most important factors in determining a student's grade will be:

-improvement over the course of the semester

-attendance and class participation

-the midterm and final exams.

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Also see "How To Get An A" on the end of this syllabus.

4) Attendance policy

Attendance is important in this class! Much of the material in this class is not standard content offered in books, etc..., and you need to be present in the class to absorb it. If you let me know in advance (in person, but phone, or email) that you have to miss a class, we can work things out (I can tell you assignments to do, etc...), and it is possible to make this an "excused" absence. If you just don't show up, and don't let me know in advance it is an unexcused absence (no need to explain afterwards). If you exceed the allowed number of unexcused absences, which is three (3), it is grounds for failure. If you are significantly late for class, it counts as a "1/3" unexcused absence. In unusual cases, a student has performance or travel commitments that require they miss a number of classes in a row – if this will be the case with you, definitely let me know as far in advance as possible, so we can work out how you will tackle the material you will miss.

In any case, we will use a “buddy system” in class, and you will be responsible for getting all materials you missed from your buddy, and finding out what you missed. This is the only kind of question from a student to which I am not very responsive – don’t ask me “What did I miss last week?” – you need to find that out from your buddy.

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5) How To Get An A

1. Show up - every time, on time, and prepared
2. Participate - thoughtfully, constructively, enthusiastically
3. Do the work (i.e. homework, practice **every day**, etc.)
4. Show improvement
5. Be professional

Date	Details
	Roll Call Attendance (https://newschool.instructure.com/courses/1260278/assignments/4791543)
