

**The University of Central Florida  
Department of Music  
Jazz Bass I**

[MVJ 1214-0004](#); Spring 2021

Instructor: Richard Drexler

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**Syllabus**

**I. General Objectives**

The goal is to develop in the student the skills required for performance on bass within the idiom of jazz music.

**II. Specific Objectives**

- A. To develop a jazz repertoire.
- B. To develop the mental and manual dexterity required to achieve fluidity on the instrument.
- C. To swing and develop reliable consistent time and rhythmic accuracy.
- D. To improvise in the jazz style, with an emphasis on using the variety of musical streams and traditions to craft an individual style and sound.

**III. Classroom Procedures**

The student is expected to arrive at each lesson promptly, with the lesson material prepared. Stylistic concepts will be discussed and demonstrated by the instructor, and assimilated by the student through systematic repetition. The student is expected to learn repertoire as taught by the instructor. It is strongly suggested that the student have the music service *Rhapsody* or access to a similar collection of online recorded music.

## **IV. Grading procedures**

### **A. General requirements**

- 1. The student is required to report to all lessons and master classes and attend Jazz Studies events and concerts.**
- 2. The student is expected to complete all assignments in conjunction with the weekly lesson plan.**
- 3. The student is required to take any exams or quizzes during the semester, including participating in jam sessions.**

### **B. Specific Requirements**

- 1. To receive the grade of “A” for the course:**
  - a. The student must have no more than one unexcused absence.**
  - b. Assignments will be performed or completed on time, accurately and with superior quality.**
- 2. To Receive the grade of “B” for the course:**
  - a. The student must have no more than one unexcused absence.**
  - b. Assignments will be performed or completed on time, accurately, and with excellent quality.**
- 3. To receive the grade of “C” for the course:**
  - a. The student must not have more than two unexcused absences.**
  - b. The assignments must show fair to good quality.**
- 4. The student who fails to complete the above requirements will receive the grade “D” or “F” according to the degree of non-compliance.**
- 5. An incomplete will be given following discussion between the instructor and the student, pending formal notice given to the music chair.**
- 6. Students will be required to participate in some or all of the following:**
  - a. Arranging and/or composing for the jazz chamber groups.**
  - b. Transcribing arrangements for the jazz chamber groups.**
  - c. Concert programming.**
  - d. Writing program notes.**

## **V. Required Texts**

The Evolving Bassist (Millennium Edition), by Rufus Reid. Aebersold Publications.

## **VI. Recommended Texts**

Building Jazz Bass Lines, by Ron Carter. Aebersold Publications.  
Big Band Bass, by John Clayton Jr. Aebersold Publications  
Jazz Harmony and Improvisation, by Herbert Silverstein MD and Richard Drexler. Trafford Press.  
The True Cuban Bass, by Carlos Del Puerto & Silvio Vergata. Sher Music.  
The Jazz Bass Book: Technique and Tradition, by John Goldsby (forward by Ron Carter). Bass Player Publications.  
Concepts for Bass Soloing, by Chuck Sher and Marc Johnson. Sher Music.

## **VII. Recommended DVD**

Bass Logic from The Players School of Music, by Jeff Berlin. Mel Bay Publications.

## **VIII. Weekly Schedule**

(These may be adjusted as needed:)

- Week 1 – Reorientation; review of previous semester
- Week 2 – Review of scales, arpeggios and exercises
- Week 3 – Review of repertoire; reading new tunes
- Week 4 – Study of repertoire
- Week 5 – Study of repertoire
- Week 6 – Assignment of written solo; review of repertoire
- Week 7 – Study of upper fingerings, thumb position
- Week 8 – Investigation and discussion of different music styles
- Week 9 – Playing and adapting of written solo
- Week 10 – Learning new tune; repertoire review
- Week 11 – Harmonic analysis of tunes using scale system
- Week 12 – Review of scale system
- Week 13 – Review of repertoire, scales and exercises
- Week 14 – Review; jury exam preparation (signup sheet for time)

## Important:

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the academic activity on Webcourses during the first week of classes, no later than August 24, 2018. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. Please write a paragraph stating that you have read the syllabus and also a paragraph explaining your academic goals for this semester. Submit this assignment via Webcourses no later than Friday, August 24, 2018.

## Student Conduct:

Review the Office of Student Conduct website at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

Absolutely no texting or unauthorized use of a phone, tablet or similar device is allowed during class. Failure to observe this rule will result in immediate removal from the classroom and grade F will be assigned for that lesson.

## Updated university policy verbiage for all UCF syllabi starting in fall 2018:

### Academic Integrity

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action (see <http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/FVProject.pdf> ).

**UCF Creed:** Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources comes from the Council of Writing Program Administrators (<http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>) and has been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

### Plagiarism

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

### Misuse of Sources

A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

### Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>. For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see <http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

### Unauthorized Use of Class Materials

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students which are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

### Unauthorized Use of Class Notes

Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

### In-Class Recording Policy

Outside of the note-taking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed only with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and note-taking and are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the separate written approval of the instructor.

### Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407/823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

### Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

\* In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.

\* Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at [http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency\\_guide.html](http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html).

\* Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.

\* If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF> (click on link from menu on left).

\* To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."

\* If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.

\* Consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>) about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere.

### Religious Observances

Students must notify the instructor during the first week of classes if they intend to miss class for a religious observance.

### Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

## Updated university policy verbiage for all UCF syllabi starting in fall 2020:

Should this course shift to remote-only instruction, the university has provided several resources to assist students with learning: <https://digitalllearning.ucf.edu/newsroom/keeplearning/>

**Live and Recorded Lectures (optional if applicable):** This course will include synchronous (“real time”) sessions that will also be available as a recorded session for later review in Webcourses@UCF. Students who are unable to attend on-campus sessions, are expected to review these available sessions. Students who are unable to actively participate in on-campus or remote learning, should contact their instructor to explore options. Any synchronous meeting times will be announced via Webcourses@UCF and should appear on the Webcourses@UCF calendar should remote instruction be activated.

Such recordings/streaming will only be available to students registered for this class. These recordings are the intellectual property of the faculty and they may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit, written consent of the faculty member. Further, students may not share these sessions with those not in the class or upload them to any other online environment. Doing so would be a breach of the Code of Student Conduct, and, in some cases, a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**Technology Access** – Depending upon modality, this course might need to shift to remote or fully online instruction based on medical guidance. This course also could be fully online and thus This could require access to additional technology. If students do not have proper access to technology, including a computer and reliable Wi-Fi, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Information about technology lending can be found at <https://it.ucf.edu/techcommons/> and <https://library.ucf.edu/libtech>.

Resources:

<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/>

*This syllabus is subject to change without notice.*