UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
BASIC READING AND IMPROVISATION LAB

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Architecture and Arts

2. Course

JAZZ AND MODERN MUSIC

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

BASIC READING AND IMPROVISATION LAB (C6224)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

3,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor MASSIMO CAVALLI

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

a. Learn, through a step-by-step approach, improvisational styles that apply to each musical genre and any instrument.
b. Improve communication skills and develop a good sound that makes the student more confident in their interpretative and artistic ability, adding cohesion and variety to their improvisation.
c. Ability to transcribe solos and lines from other instruments, assimilating the techniques and nuances of the masters into their own instrument.

15. Specific Objectives

a. Learning to improvise by analyzing and playing reference solos.
b. Ability to read basic melodic and rhythmic passages.
c. Develop the student's capacity for expression through a step-by-step approach.
d. Study of blues form, pentatonic scales, rhythmic, melodic and harmonic repetition.
e. Transcription and performance of excerpts from solos.
f. Understanding the five basic elements of music: melody, rhythm, harmony, form and color.

16. Skills to be acquired

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a. Ability to gain experience as a musician/artist, performing in a more natural and spontaneous way on stage and live.
b. Knowing how to apply harmonic notions in improvisation, adding chord notes and relative scales/modes.
c. Ability to introduce basic chromatic approximations in improvisation.

17. Teaching Methodology

a. Projection of examples in visual format.
b. Reading and playing simple melodic passages.
c. Reading and playing rhythmic passages in simple and compound tempos.
d. Bibliography related to the basic forms of improvisation.
e. Listening to, transcribing and playing solos by well-known artists.

18. Course Unit Program

a. Which notes to play/sing.
b. Melodic improvisation.
c. Tempo and anticipations.
d. Minor blues.
e. "Blue notes, motifs and harmonic riffs.
f. Length of solo, register, rhythmic density and expression.
g. Chord notes and voice leading.
h. Use of modes in chords, rhythmic variations.
i. Chromatic approaches.
j. Motivic fragments.
k. Ability to use all the resources described above to create a solo.

19. Assessment Methods

a. Participation, motivation, punctuality and behavior.
b. Homework achievement.
c. Two performance tests throughout the semester.
d. Final performance project in the final session.

20. Didactic Resources

a. Audio and video files.
b. Scores.
c. Practical experiences in small ensembles.

21. Sustainability Objectives

Reducing the use of paper supports by sharing teaching materials on the different digital platforms available, such as Microsoft Teams or Moodle. Use of tablets to avoid printing parts. The use of paper is also made easier by marking attendance online. Holding videoconferences to answer students' questions, avoiding unnecessary travel and consequently polluting the environment.

22. Keywords

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basic improvisation
rhythmic reading
melodic reading
blues
pentatonics
blues scale

23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	LaPorta, John		
Title:	A Guide To Jazz Improvisation: C Instruments		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2000
Local:	Boston, EUA		
Publisher:	Berklee Press Publications		

Author(s):	Crook, Hal		
Title:	How to Improvise		
Edition:	2ª	Year:	2015
Local:	Alemanha		
Publisher:	Advance Music		

Author(s):	Stuart, Rory		
Title:	The Rhythm Book-Complete Series (6 volumes)		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2017
Local:	Milwaukee, EUA		
Publisher:	Hal Leonard Corporation		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Prince, Adamo		
Title:	Método Prince-Leitura e Perceção-Ritmo Vol. 1		
Edition:	2ª	Year:	1993
Local:	Rio de Janeiro, Brasil		
Publisher:	Lumiar Editora		

Author(s):	Titlebaum, Mike		
Title:	Jazz Improvisation Using Simple Melodic Embellishment		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2021
Local:	New York & London		
Publisher:	Routledge		

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor MASSIMO CAVALLI
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