UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
BASIC READING AND IMPROVISATION LAB

Academic Year 2026/2027

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. Doutora JOANA GUERREIRO BORGES MACHADO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To instill habits of sight-reading and transcribing solos in order to later identify improvisation methods.

15. Specific Objectives

Development of sight-reading habits for tonal melodies, including any chromatic accidentals.
"Movable C" method - using the names of the scale degrees for intonation.
Listening and transcribing simple solos.
Improvisation using motifs - motivic development, motivic transposition, and motivic adaptation.

16. Skills to be acquired

Ability to identify tonalities and develop auditory memory of the degrees of the major scale and the relationship between them, reflected in sight-reading. Internalization/familiarization with the language of improvisation in Jazz, memorizing solos and performing structured improvisation technique exercises.
(Prioritization of singing.)

17. Teaching Methodology

Analysis of musical scores.
Melodic and rhythmic reading.
Performing improvisation exercises.
Listening, transcribing and singing reference solos.

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18. Course Unit Program

Study of key signatures.
Recognition of tonalities and location of notes within the tonality, using numerical (universal) language - solfège and intonation.
Transcription of solos and intonation of the same.
Performance of exercises in creating motifs in progressions of the type "II V I" and subsequent development of the same.
Writing solos / improvisation in harmonic progressions and in specific modes, using numerical language and "scat" (abstract).

19. Assessment Methods

Attendance (70%)
Class participation
Completion of assignments - 2 periods of continuous assessment
Final exam

20. Didactic Resources

Sheet music
Aebersold play-alongs
Reference recordings
Oral presentation of the lesson's contents and goals

21. Sustainability Objectives

Prioritizing the use of recordings and the delivery of work in MIDI format.
Reducing paper usage, although necessary at times.

22. Keywords

Sight-reading
Tonality
Key signature
Solfège
Improvisation
Ear training

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Crook, Hal
Title: How to Improvise
Edition: 2nd Year: 2015
Local: Germany
Publisher: Advance Music
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Titlebaum, Mike
Title: Jazz Improvisation Using Simple Melodic Embellishment
Edition: 1st Year: 2021
Local: Ithaca, USA
Publisher: TAYLOR & FRANCIS LTD
ISBN Code:

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

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): AITKEN, Gene & AEBERSOLD, Jamey
Title: Vocal Jazz Improvisation: an instrumental approach
Edition: 1st Year: 1983
Local: Austin, Texas
Publisher: Jazz Educators Journal: official magazine of the National Association of Jazz Educators, Oct./Nov. 1
ISBN Code:

Author(s): FONTAINE, F.
Title: Éléments Pratiques du Rythme Mesuré - Volume 1
Edition: 1er Year: 1955
Local: Paris, France
Publisher: Editions Henry Lemoine

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora JOANA GUERREIRO BORGES MACHADO
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