Course: A course designed to introduce and instruct students in the basic skills associated with jazz improvisation.

Description: Required text: Rehearsal/performance materials will be assigned by the instructor.

Text, References, And Supplies: Recommended Supplies: Metronome.

Course Goals/ Objectives: Upon the successful completion of this course the student will know how to:

1. Develop basic skills associated with jazz improvisation
2. Identify the basic structure of existing improvisations as an aid to rehearsal and performance.

Contributions and Class Policies: Student Contributions: The student is expected to be punctual and present for EACH class period and is expected to remain sufficiently prepared for each class.

Instructor Contributions: The Instructor will assess the level to which each student meets the requirements of this course, utilizing the grading policies found on the second page of this syllabus. The instructor will post, as applicable, daily office and/or appointment hours; office and/or home phone numbers and any future changes, outside the instructor’s office or group rehearsal area. The instructor will provide a revised syllabus to the student, if or when changes must be made to better serve the needs of that student.

Class Policies:
Attendance-Rehearsal: Regular, punctual attendance is vitally important to musical instruction and group performance. The grading policy regarding class attendance can be found on the second page of this syllabus. For additional information, see the class attendance policies as stated in the Midland College Student Handbook.

Attendance-Performance: Attendance is MANDATORY. Many courses on a college campus do not lend themselves to rescheduling therefore an absence from class is a missed opportunity. However, the nature of this course is such that an instructor may find a private lesson setting adequately serves as a make-up to missed class work. This choice is entirely at the discretion of the faculty member. Instruction missed by the absence of a faculty member may/may not be rescheduled at the discretion of the faculty member but it WILL NOT be counted against the student. Each student should consult with his/her instructor to ensure that the rescheduling policy is understood.

Special Accommodations: Students who require special accommodations to meet course requirements must contact the conductor on their first meeting and provide, as determined by the conductor, appropriate documentation by the third week of class.

Students are encouraged to visit, IN PERSON, with their conductor when any important questions or concerns arise. Students should confine these visits too: (1) The posted office and/or appointment hours and (2) The conductor’s office. Important visits SHOULD NOT occur in the confusion and distraction of the hallways, before, during or after class or off-campus.
Phone and Email Messages:
Every effort will be made to answer phone and/or email messages in a timely fashion. Since the conductor’s schedule will dictate his/her ability to address these contacts, phone and/or email messages are not appropriate for time sensitive data/information. In an effort to combat unwanted spams and virus attacks, Midland College advises its faculty and staff to delete email messages that are not easily identifiable. A nickname, number sequence or other colorful descriptor used as email address may be easily recognized by friends or family but likely will end up as trash to the unfamiliar. Always use the subject box to identify yourself and your course (mtodd/orchestra or mtodd/jazzband). The conductor’s inability to address phone and/or email messages in a timely fashion does not relieve student responsibility.

Evaluation
Determination of Grades:
The semester grade will be determined by an average of the following:

1. Performance exams of selected compositions.
   - 90% to 100% accuracy    A
   - 80% to 89% accuracy    B
   - 70% to 79% accuracy    C
   - 60% to 69% accuracy    D
   - 59% accuracy or below    F

2. Class attendance (as a % of the total rehearsals that semester)
   - 90% to 100% of rehearsals attended    A
   - 81% to 89% of rehearsals attended    B
   - 80% or less of rehearsals attended    Discretion of Conductor (*)

* Class attendance at 80% or below will result in absences greater than six classroom hours. In accordance with the class attendance policies of the Midland College Student Handbook “…a total of six classroom hours of unexcused absences as reported by the instructor may result in a student being dropped from the course.”

3. Performance attendance (as a % of the total performances that semester)
   - Attendance at 90% to 100% of performances.    A
   - Attendance at 80% to 89% of performances.    B
   - Attendance at 79% or less of performances.    Discretion of Conductor

It should be noted that while these percentages are clearly defined, the number of performances they represent change as the total number of performances in a semester increases or decreases.