



Music Department

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs.areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/music/>

MUAP 1181: Improvisation I | Lecture | #20897

Spring 2021 | 16 Weeks (1.19 - 5.9.2021)
 Online, In-Person | Spring Branch PAC 443D |
 TBA

1 Credit Hour | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Woody Witt	Office Phone:	713-718-5601
Office:	PAC, North Wing 443D	Office Hours:	by appointment
HCC Email:	woodrow.witt@hccs.edu	Office Location:	Spring Branch PAC

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

If you need to contact me, please do so by email – my turn-around time will be faster. I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

What's Exciting About This Course

MUAP 1181 is an introductory course in learning about improvisation. We will explore improvisation technique, posture, appropriate repertoire, and prominent improvisational composers and performers.

My Personal Welcome

Welcome to Improvisation I, II —I'm delighted that you have chosen this course! One of my passions is to know as much as I can about music, and I can hardly wait to pass that on. I will present the information in the most exciting way I know, so that you can grasp the concepts and apply them now and hopefully throughout your life.

As you read and wrestle with new ideas and facts that may challenge you, I am available to support you. The fastest way to reach me is by my HCC email. The best way to really discuss issues is in person and I'm available during posted office hours to tackle the questions. My goal is for you to walk out of the course with a better understanding of yourself, music, and why you enjoy the music that you do. Please visit me or contact me by email whenever you have a question.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

MUAP 1181, 1182 requires college-level reading and writing skills. Research indicates that you are most likely to succeed if you have already taken and passed ENGL 1301. If you have enrolled in this course having satisfied these prerequisites, you have a higher chance of success than students who have not done so. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#). It is STRONGLY recommended you either have taken or be currently enrolled in MUSI 1303 Fundamentals of Music, or in MUSI 1311 Music Theory I. The co-requisite for this course is MUAP 1183, 1184 Improvisation Studio I, II.

If you are a music major pursuing an AA in Music, you should also be enrolled in a Music Theory course, Sight Singing & Ear Training course, Piano Class course, an ensemble, and MUAP Private lessons and studio in the instrument in which you specialize. Please see a full-time music instructor or your MUAP instructor for academic advising and to learn how you can finish a music degree in 2-3 years with proper guidance.

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of MUAP 1181 will use [Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities. HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. Lessons will be conducted using Zoom, link provided on the Canvas page for your section. **USE FIREFOX OR CHROME AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

Instructional Materials

Textbook Information

The textbook for this course will vary, based on the skill level and previous experience of the student, and the instructor's preference. A repertoire book may be required for purchase as well as a technique/exercises book. The instructor will make an effort to recommend a book that can be used for multiple purposes, and possibly for multiple semesters. Students must purchase texts off campus or online.

For this course and lessons, we will be using the following book: The Real Book Volume 1, Sixth Edition, Hal Leonard Publishing Co.

Other Instructional Resources

HCC Libraries Music Tutorial Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcR7Peu_2Xo&feature=youtu.be

HCC Libraries Oxford Music Dictionary Online/Groves Dictionary (Library/Student Code needed):

<http://libaccess.hccs.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/>

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

Course Overview

Individual instruction in improvisation. Course may apply to a music degree.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Keyboard Skills: The student will demonstrate mastery of scales, chords, & harmonization of melodies using varied accompaniment techniques. Students will perform selected compositions and demonstrate competence in various transpositions.
2. Music Theory Skills: The student will analyze and compose advanced 4 measure segments which include; harmony, melody, rhythm, and cadences.
3. Ear Training Skills: The student will sing and notate diatonic and chromatic intervals, chords, rhythms, and harmonic chord progressions.
4. Music Literature Skills: The student will be able to identify and describe the periods of music history including general style characteristics, major composers of each period, and representative works. Students will be able to critically evaluate musical works and articulate the relationship between historical events and musical styles/aesthetics.
5. Ensemble Performance Skills: The student will apply learned vocal/instrumental skills and techniques in an ensemble performance.
6. Solo Performance Skills: The student will demonstrate learned vocal/instrumental skills and techniques in a jury of 5-10 minutes of music appropriate to MUAP Semester 4 SLO's in a solo performance.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of MUAP 1181, 1182 the student will have/be able to:

1. Play all major scales executed at slow-medium tempi, 2 octaves.
2. Execute II-V-I chord progressions using Root-3rd-7th configuration, with score if needed.
3. Demonstrate basic understanding of a lead sheet at slow to medium tempo using Root-3rd and Root-7th configuration.
4. Demonstrate basic chording or scalar playing in proper tempo to Aebersold or other play-along on a blues or simple chord progression.
5. Begin simple ear training identification exercises.

Learning Objectives

All Students taking MUAP 1181, 1182 are required to take the co-requisite class MUAP 1183, 1184 (Improvisation Studio). These courses combine to give the student the mandated 2 credits for college level private instruction.

Prerequisites

· Any student may apply for this course provided he/she is able to meet the following requirements:

1. Student must have a working knowledge of their instrument including, but certainly not limited to

A) All major scales played at a moderate, even tempo (mm. 120) with proper instrument technique.

B) A repertoire of some sort i.e., Standard tunes, pop music, classical music, original compositions.

C) The ability to read music and have a basic

understanding of its fundamentals, i.e. rhythms and intervals.

· A vast technical background is not essential, but the student must be aware that the more advanced their training, the better prepared he/she will be to understand the theories and concepts given in these lessons. It is essential to acknowledge that a well-trained ear is the ideal of any musician and should represent an ongoing area of study for the student.

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Exams

Student will prepare and fulfill the requirements of a jury given during finals week. All other projects, exams, classwork are done on a one-to-one basis with instructor.

In-Class Activities

Student is expected to fulfill the requirements of each individual lesson. Practice rooms are available on campus and student may get a permission card from either the instructor or the Fine Arts office to make use of these rooms.

Final Exam

The final exam for this class will be the successful presentation of a juried performance to be graded by a minimum of 3 music faculty members.

Students who are absent from the final exam without discussing their absence with the instructor in advance or within 24 hours afterward will receive an exam grade of "F".

Students who cannot make the final exam due to health or emergency reasons will receive an "incomplete". This grade will stand until it is replaced the following semester, otherwise it will turn into an "F" the following semester.

Grading Formula

50% -- Juries (Given at end of each semester)

30% -- Attendance

20% -- Progress/Participation

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	<60

Incomplete Policy:

In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 12 of 16 weeks of the work in the course. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete. If a student completes work in week 13 then stops, the student has earned a grade of "F".

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic / Assignments Due
1		Discussion and assessment of student goals
2		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
3		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
4		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
5		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
6		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
7		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
8		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
9		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
10		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
11		Applied lesson evaluation/critique and recommendations
12		Jury prep, evaluation/critique and recommendations
13		Jury prep, evaluation/critique and recommendations
14		Jury prep, evaluation/critique and recommendations
15		Jury prep, evaluation/critique and recommendations
16		Jury

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Missed Assignments

Student is required to turn in all work at its due time which shall be given in class. There is no penalty for an assignment turned in late, but no assignment will be accepted by instructor after the last class meeting before FINALS Week.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is copying another student's work, or an already published work. It is also misquoting or not properly citing a source, and claiming it as your own, whether intentional or not. Students plagiarizing may be given one warning and a lower grade but will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment. Students who plagiarize a second time MAY BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE COURSE.

Turnitin is a service through Canvas/Eagle Online where students submit their work and it is checked for plagiarism. If more than 15% of the work is plagiarized, students may be asked to edit the work or take a 50% or 0% the first time.

Maxient is an online service where HCC professors can report plagiarism and cheating, and it will be linked to the students' permanent education record through the Dean of Students. If someone is caught cheating or plagiarizing, it will now be reported through Maxient.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedures

Attendance:

Any student being absent for more than 12.5% of their class may result in automatic failure. This reflects standard HCCS policy. For this class, 4 absences constitutes 12.5%

Consistent lateness to class may follow this formula:

Between 1 and 5 minutes late = 1/4 absence

Between 5 and 15 minutes late = 1/3 absence

Between 15 and 30 minutes late = 1/2 absence

Between 30 and 45 minutes late = 3/4 absence

Student Conduct

As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

Electronic Devices

Student may use an audio recorder to record lectures. This should be done discretely and without disruption to the class.

Music Program Information

Center of Excellence for Visual & Performing Arts website:

<https://www.hccs.edu/centers/visual--performing-arts/>

Visual & Performing Arts Calendar: <https://www.hccs.edu/centers/visual--performing-arts/visual--performing-arts-calendar/>

Oxford Music Dictionary Online/Groves –

<http://libaccess.hccs.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/>

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints

- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a

campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

Susan Hines – Performing Arts Department Chair: Dance, Drama and Music
713-718-6611
Susan.Hines@hccs.edu