



PimaCommunityCollege

Studio Instruction: Saxophone

MUP 167/177/267/271

Course Syllabus, Fall 2007

Instructor:

Mike L. Keepe, Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone

Pima Community College

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Office hours: (By appointment)

Course Description:

Weekly studio instruction. Includes participation in student recitals and jury exams. Students will be provided with the foundation to express and appreciate music on a deeper level both as a performer and listener. This will be achieved through study of effective pedagogy, developing a broad musical and intellectual foundation, in a positive learning environment.

Performance Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate a continued emphasis on proper physical characteristics for playing of one's instrument.
2. Demonstrate a concentrated practicing and mental approach for playing of one's instrument.
3. Demonstrate a continuation of student's musicianship.
4. Practice playing of major scales from four sharps to four flats by memory with differing articulations.
5. Develop awareness of intervallic relationships and relate them to their instrument.
6. Develop increased awareness of rhythmic subtleties.
7. Develop increased awareness of music literature and its interpretation for performance.

Course Outline:

- I. Embouchure Development
- II. Proper Timbre (Tonal) Production
- III. Accurate Rhythmic Interpretation
- IV. Interpretation of Linear Lines
- V. Literature That is Listed as Etudes in Nature
- VI. Literature That is Listed as Excerpts in Nature
- VII. Literature That is Listed as Soloistic in Nature
- VIII. History and Theory to be Taught Relevant to Literature Being Covered

Instructional Materials:

- **Lesson Binder:** All students will keep a **3-ring binder**. This will include **dividers, staff paper, and a practice journal** (described below).
- **Required Texts:**
 - *The Art of Saxophone Playing* by Larry Teal, Summy - Birchard Inc.
 - *The Cambridge Companion to the Saxophone*, edited by Richard Ingham, Cambridge Press
- **Practice/Lesson Journal:** Students will keep a notebook (spiral, 3 hole), specifically for lessons. Organization is a must for continuous progress. I will use it to keep track of lessons and to better understand the student's practice habits. The student will use it to keep track of practice sessions as well as for reference of topics covered in lessons.
- **Tuner, Metronome, Recording Device:** All students are required to have and use **metronomes, tuners, and recorders**. These are invaluable to a student of music and progress is very difficult if not impossible without these. Tuner/Metronome (in one) units can be found in the thirty dollar range and recording devices start around the thirty dollar range.(Try using your computer)
- **Music Dictionary:** A necessity for understanding the musical language. Pocket dictionaries are available at all music stores for around \$5.

Technical Studies: (see attached Technical Proficiency Chart)

- Technical facility enables the musician to effectively express themselves and the music through an instrument. Continued progress will be demanded in scales, arpeggios, articulation exercises, intonation, etc., will be constantly monitored.
- **There will be a Technical Proficiency Exam at the end of each semester prior to Juries. This will count as 25% of your final grade.**

Performing:

- All students are encouraged to participate in any and all performing venues.
- **SPRING RECITAL Dates (REQUIRED): 3:15 PM Wednesdays** in the Recital Hall. Students must sign up with Jeanne Lewis no later than the **preceding Friday by 4:00 PM** with your name, composer, piece, instrument, and accompanist if needed.
- **Students are also required to perform a jury at the end of each semester.** The jury is a cumulative test in front of the woodwind faculty during finals week. It is a 10 minute performance of any scale, excerpt, composition, or etude learned during the semester, chosen by the faculty.
- Outside of Pima's ensembles and recitals, other performing opportunities are available and will be discussed in lessons.
- **COMPETITIONS:** Both local and national competitions take place annually. All students are encouraged to participate in these especially those who are interested in music as a career and/or those seeking music scholarships to university.

Listening:

- Listening to **recordings** and **attending performances** is vital for musical development and understanding. In music there is no better teacher than your ears. Developing a good **tone quality** and better **musical understanding** depends on the maturity of the ears. Each student is encouraged to build and keep a **listening library**.
- **Live Performances:** Attendance of LIVE performances provides a deeper understanding of what it is to be a performing artist. It is imperative for students to know what is demanded of musicians today musically and emotionally. There are many performance venues throughout the Tucson area. The Tucson Jazz Society, Centennial Hall, The Tucson Convention Center, the U of A, are but a few. I highly recommend obtaining concert schedules from various places, joining music societies, and checking the *Tucson Weekly* and local papers.
- I will keep students informed, in lessons and via e-mail, of upcoming concerts and recitals that I feel are important to attend.

Lesson Attendance:

Please be warmed up and prepared for each lesson. 16 lessons are required per semester. Each lesson receives a letter grade for that lesson. It is based on preparation and steady progress of all assigned material, fundamentals, technique, and musicianship.

Cancellation Policy:

24 hours are required for any cancellation. Lessons cancelled with less than 24 hours notice may be made up at the instructor's discretion. Lessons may be made up for the following reasons.

1. Lessons missed for a valid reason (personal illness, family emergency, religious holiday, vacation plans) when you have given 24 hours notice.
2. Lessons that I am unable to teach.
3. Lessons missed because of genuine calamities (serious accident, illness, and flooded roads) which arise within 24 hours before the lessons, at the teachers' discretion. If you must miss a lesson, even if you find out just before you were to arrive, please call so I know not to expect you, and more importantly, so I won't worry about you.

Grading:

The grade criteria are based upon an accumulation of knowledge and practice culminating with a jury and recital performance for all classes at MUP 167 and higher. The final grade for the semester will be an average of all grades in the following manner:

Weekly lesson preparation, participation, verbal exams from text material: 50%

End of Term Technical Proficiency Exam: 25%

End of Term Jury: 25%

Recital Performance: 1 required. Failure to perform will result in an incomplete for the semester.

Total: 100%

Grading scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F

Practice rooms:

Students must see Jeanne Lewis with a paid receipt of music classes taken in spring 2006 so they can sign up for specific practice room times and days. **The maximum is 5 hours per week, although anyone can use a vacant room if no scheduled person is using it.** Room 13 has no piano. Students are not to sign in their own time on the sheet on the door which was an increasing problem last semester.

ADA Statement:

“Pima Community College offers reasonable academic accommodations to qualified students with appropriate disability documentation. Academic accommodations will be made based on eligibility determination by the Disabled Student Service office (DSR). To request a reasonable academic accommodation, students must be registered with a campus DSR office. West Campus DSR is located in the Santa Catalina building, C-130, and can be reached by calling 206-6688.”

Pima Community College Saxophone Studio
Michael Keepe, Instructor

Technical Proficiency Chart

	Chromatic Scale	Major Scales	Major Arpeggios	Harmonic Minor Scale	Minor Arpeggios	Major Thirds	H. Minor Thirds	Major Fourths
Level 1	80	80						
Level 2	92	92	80					
Level 3	104	104	92					
Level 4	116	116	104	60				
Level 5	120	120	116	80	60			
Level 6	126	126	120	92	80	60		
Level 7	132	132	126	104	92	80		
Level 8	138	138	132	116	104	92	60	
Level 9	144	144	138	120	116	104	80	
Level 10	152	152	144	126	120	116	92	
Level 11	160	160	152	132	126	120	104	60
Level 12	160	160	160	138	132	126	116	80

Saxophone Majors will have a Technical Proficiency Exam at the end of each semester prior to Juries. Students will be expected to progress at least one level each semester. All tempo markings refer to performing full range in eight notes, triplets, and sixteenth notes.

This will be 25% of the final grade for the semester.