The goal of this course is to provide students who are competent keyboardists with the skills necessary to explore creative arenas outside of classical music. These skills include improvisation and playing by ear, practical knowledge of associated keyboard technology, and exposure to other musical styles.

It is understood that improvisational ability will vary widely among students in the course. It is also understood that levels of creativity will vary widely. Therefore, underlying parameters for ALL assignments will be very specific, establishing clearly measurable criteria, beyond which students can explore a high level of individuality. Grading will be conducted on a cumulative-point basis generated from 12 weekly assignments and a final project.

Enrollment is such that all students can and must actively participate in all class activities. Furthermore, as the pacing of the course will be fast, students must attend all classes. Absences without reasonable notice or explanation will result in a lowering of the letter grade.

Students with a disability that may, in any way, hinder that student’s ability to function academically, must be registered as such with the University of Florida and must inform the instructor of the condition at the beginning of the semester.

Course Content:
I. Keyboard-related aural skills
   a. Improvisation
      i. Introduced from basic concepts of music theory.
      ii. Improvisation according to strict guidelines over basic chord progressions.
      iii. More advanced progressions over which to improvise will be assigned.
   b. Playing by ear
      i. Learning to play from aural stimuli.
         1. What should we be listening to?
      ii. Focus upon a variety of musical styles.
      iii. Specific pieces will be assigned to each student to perform in a later class.
c. The above tasks will continue to be implemented in combination with other activities throughout the remainder of the course.

II. Exposure to other musical styles (ongoing throughout the semester)
   a. As a means of fulfilling the requirements for each of the above activities, students will learn some basics of other musical styles in which to utilize the new skills in improvisation and technology. These styles will include popular music, jazz, and church music. Specific assignments will entail completing the above tasks within the realm of a particular style introduced and demonstrated by the instructor.

**Caveat:** The above content and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.
Bibliography


