

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts
Saxophone Technique
Davey S. Yarborough-instructor

Course objectives/Syllabus

Code: UJ 6-7-8-9-/07-08 I-IV

Credit 1:00

Grades 9-12

One year

M-W-F

Office hours: By Appointment

Saxophone technique offers the study and performance of saxophone literature, development of relevant styles, improvisational techniques, concepts and appropriate stage decorum. Instructional levels will involve the use of grade 2 through 6 Repertoire

Pre-requisites: Students in this class are exclusively selected through audition. Students must have a working saxophone that they can practice away from school on a daily basis.

DCPS music performance content standards will be implemented as portrayed in their document.

The saxophone students will:

Semester one:

- Read, write recite and perform the chromatic scale.
- Discuss the history of the saxophone
- Read, write and perform all major scales
- Read, write and discuss all key signatures
- Read write and discuss all intervals and Enharmonics
- Perform any assigned grade II-III solo/ensemble or orchestral excerpt with 85% accuracy.
- Read, write and discussion any configuration of music notation up to sixteenth notes
- Name ten professional Saxophonists that they have listened to.
- Create and maintain a basic resume

Semester two:

- All of the above mentioned plus the following:
- Read, write and discuss all forms of the minor scale
- Read, write and discuss all major and arpeggios
- Read, write and discuss all dominant and pentatonic scales.
- Perform at least one graded recital
- Perform with a saxophone ensemble. Ex. Duet, Trio, Quartet , etc

Semester three:

- All of the above mentioned plus the following
- Read write and discuss any configuration of music notation up to 32nd notes
- Read, discuss and perform a selected grade III-IV solo or orchestral excerpt
- Read, write, perform and discuss the blues, whole tone and diminished scales
- Perform a selected grade 4/5 solo or orchestral excerpt on recital

Semester four:

- All of the above mentioned plus:
- Performance of at least one grade III-V solo/orchestral excerpt on student recital
- Performance with a saxophone ensemble in concert/festival and/or recital.
- Discuss and perform traditional classical and jazz composition and or excerpts in various styles (Baroque, classical, romantic, impressionistic, twentieth century, New Orleans, blues, swing, straight –ahead...etc)
- Senior recital material research.
- College/conservatory audition preparation

Semester five:

- All of the above mentioned plus:
- Perform from memory two standard jazz repertoire compositions with improvisation using the Chord harmonic treatment
- Perform from memory all whole tone & diminished scales
- Selection of the top ten possible schools considered after graduation
- Performance of at least one grade Four to Six on student recital
- Sight – read music in various meters.
- Research professional saxophone players and composers of various styles. (15-20)
- Senior recital preparation.
- Introduction to saxophone instruction concepts
- College audition

Semester six:

- All of the above plus:
- Senior recital
- Mentoring internship and coaching of freshmen and sophomores.
- Senior Showcase Performance.
- Graduation performance preparation

- **The above stated skills to be developed to at least 85% efficiency with the aid of instruction using, but not limited to the literary materials listed in the course description.**
- **Grading percentages for assignments within each category will vary by arts department based on the processes and assessments specific to each discipline. It is a requirement to pass a course that students participate/attend all rehearsals and performances as these are also assessments**

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on attitude, repertoire, concert/recital performance and stage décor, class participation, attendance, behavior and all written assignments such as research papers, essays, performance and written exams. Students must perform in all related competitions, concerts and festivals in order to pass this course.

No instrumental student will be allowed to participate in graduation activities without performing a senior recital/jury consisting of at least one grade V composition or better.

Grades will be calculated as follows: Participation-10% Practice and Application – 50% Assessments – 40%

I have read and fully understand the above course description for the saxophone technique class.

Student _____ date _____

Parent or legal Guardian _____ date _____