I. Course Description

Music 231 is a graduate course where students develop their improvisational skills through exploration, study and practice. Students will investigate diverse improvisational approaches to harmonic and rhythmic structures, and explore graphic scores, predetermined forms and free improvisation. Students will develop the language to discuss detailed sound events that occur in improvisation, critique the work of their peers and draw connections with others in the field of improvisation through journal writing and blogging. They will culminate with 1-2 performances demonstrating their work.

II. Materials

Readings and listening will be assigned in class periodically. Instruments should be brought each day to class, as well as notation paper, blank paper and sheet music that is handed out in class.

III. Course Requirements

1. Attendance. This is a participatory-based course, through dialogue, listening, rehearsal and performance. More than one excused absence can result in the lowering of a student’s grade.

2. Journal. Students will be required to keep a personal journal to write about their experiences and their process of learning about improvisation and related issues discussed in class. **One page every week is the required minimum. All entries should be dated and titled.** Journals are intended to aid the students in understanding their own learning process in improvisation and composition. Journals will be graded based on completeness and sincere effort of thinking on related issues. Periodically there will be assigned journal topics. Students are encouraged to publish their journals/writings on the improvisation blog started in class.

3. Students should bring a folder with blank paper and notation paper to make notes of notational systems and concepts studied in class.
4. **Paper.** Students are required to write a five-page paper based on a topic related to this course. The instructor will announce further details.

4. **Performance.** Members of **Improvisation** are required to do one performance at the end of the semester where they will utilize the knowledge they have gained in class.

**IV. Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated as follows:

- Attendance and Participation: 50%
- Journals and Paper: 20%
- Performances: 30%