Syllabus
Improvisation
Dartmouth College
Fall 2012

Updated 11/9/12
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Introduction to the Class
Monday: Improvisation (group exercises)
Wednesday: Ensemble pieces
Friday: Student presentations, faculty presentations, guests (listening, discussing)

Student Requirements
1. Three concert reports
2. Participation in ensemble pieces, improvisation exercises, final concert
3. Class presentation
4. Pop quizzes

Required Text
Derek Bailey, Improvisation

Preliminary Class Schedule
(all topics subject to change)

WEEK 1 September 10, 12, 14
Wednesday: First group pieces: December 1952, Burdocks (excerpt), Ensembles of Note
Friday: In-class listening, presentation (LP).
Readings: Bailey, Parts 1–3; short essay called “Solo”; Earle Brown essay on December 1952

WEEK 2 September 17, 19, 21
Monday: Ensemble improvisation: Demotion
Wednesday: Ensembles of Note (continued), Wolff, Burdocks (excerpt) Phillip Corner The F# Section...
Friday: Guest, Stuart Saunders Smith

WEEK 3: September 24, 26, 28
Monday: Improvisation, visit from Phil Hermann
Wednesday: No class (Yom Kippur)
Friday: Guest, Don Glasgo
First concert report due.

WEEK 4: October 1, 3, 5
Friday, Guest, Malcolm Goldstein
Reading: George Lewis, “Improvised Music after 1950: Afrological and Eurological Perspectives” (on website)
WEEK 5: October 8, 10, 12
   MWF: Film improvisation project, entire class.
   Monday: Quiz on George Lewis article.
   Wednesday: In the Loew theater to rehearse, work together
   Friday: Record the scores live with the film.
   Readings: Bailey, Part 5.

WEEK 6: October 15, 17, 19
   Friday, visit from career services (LP out of town)

WEEK 7: October 22, 24, 26
   MW: Guest, Don Glasgo
   Friday: No-class

WEEK 8: October 29, 31, November 2
   Monday: Guest, Christian Wolff
   Wednesday: Jodie Mack, talking about animation final group performance
   Friday: Rehearsing animations, working on conduction
   Second concert report due

WEEK 9: November 5, 7, 9
   Monday, Wednesday: Recording listening; rehearsing animations, conduction
   Friday: Final exam: solo improvisations with graduate student “guest jury”

WEEK 10: November 12
   Guest, Nathan Davis
   Third concert report due