

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A. Department Information:

Division: Humanities and Social Science
Department: Speech and Performing Arts
Course ID: MUS 106
Course Title: History of Jazz
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Prerequisite: None

B. Catalog and Schedule Description:

Provides the student with a chronological survey of jazz music styles, including origins, development, effects on today's society, and major artists and styles. Concepts such as musical structure and form are explored.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- A. Identify the various jazz styles
- B. Recognize and analyze various musical forms and constructions
- C. Compare and contrast the historical periods of jazz music
- D. Develop a greater understanding of the musical contributions of Black Americans to our culture and distinguish between their styles
- E. Evaluate the contributions of selected jazz artists

IV. CONTENT:

A. Introduction to basic musical concepts

1. Forms common to all music
2. The concept of "swing"
3. Jazz improvisation

B. Musical styles which lead to the creation of jazz

1. The Blues
2. Ragtime
3. Brass bands and parade music

C. Classic Jazz

1. The parent style: New Orleans
2. Louis Armstrong and the increasing importance of the jazz soloist
3. Other important musicians of the 1920s and 1930s

D. The Swing Era

1. The rise of the big bands
2. Small groups and vocalists of the swing era
3. The contributions and music of Duke Ellington
4. The contributions and music of Count Basie

E. Early Modern Jazz

1. Bebop
2. Cool jazz and West Coast jazz
3. Hard bop
4. Miles Davis
5. John Coltrane

F. Modern jazz in maturity

1. Major soloists of the modern jazz period
2. Innovations in composition and instrumentation

- G. Free jazz and beyond
 - 1. The innovations of Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor
 - 2. Modal jazz and other advancements
- H. Jazz/Rock Fusion
 - 1. The influence of Rock music and the adoption by jazz musicians of its instruments and form
 - 2. Popular jazz of the 1970s and 1980s
- I. Contemporary jazz
 - 1. Current styles and musicians
 - 2. A summing up of the jazz tradition and its importance in American life

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

The course is designed under the lecture format. The instructional methods may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Listening to recorded examples of representative jazz performances
- C. Reading the text and other sources
- D. Listening to "live" performances of jazz
- E. Class discussion
- F. Researching newspapers, magazines, books, and the internet

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading: After reading the chapter on the swing era, answer the questions at the end of the chapter. Be prepared to discuss your responses in class.
- B. Listening: Select one of the recorded examples which accompanies the text and listen to it. In a 1-2 page abstract, place the piece in the proper historical period and identify the musical styles embodied in the recording.
- C. Analysis of Live Performance: Attend at least two "live" performances of jazz. In a 4-6 paper, compare and contrast the two performances. Be sure to include such items as stylistic influences evident in the music and the musical forms and constructions.
- D. Research Paper: Select one of the following jazz elements and conduct research outside of class, using sources other than your textbook.
 - 1. A major jazz musician (e.g. Armstrong, Ellington, Holiday, Parker)
 - 2. A major jazz style or period (e.g. Swing, Bebop, Fusion)
 - 3. The development of a given instrument in jazz (e.g. piano, trumpet, vocalists)

VII. EVALUATION(S):

- A. Objective and subjective examinations for listening and text assignments to test for student comprehension of course concepts. Typical exam question:
 - 1. All of the following styles are part of the Early Modern Jazz movement except
 - a) Bebop
 - b) Modal jazz
 - c) Cool jazz
 - d) Hard bop
- B. Frequency of evaluation:
 - 1. At least two examinations
 - 2. At least two research/analysis papers

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

Gridley, Mark C. Jazz Styles: History and Analysis (7th Edition) Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall 1997.
Gridley, Mark C. Concise Guide to Jazz. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall 1998.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None