

MUHI 3340 Jazz: Tradition and Transformation for May 2014

Instructor: Kim Corbet (SMU Jazz History for 30 years, 15 years radio music host at KERA 90.1, 25 years commercial Jazz musician, member of UNT One O'clock Lab Band)

Jazz is uniquely American. It is a sophisticated music born out of the streets and clubs of New Orleans, Depression Era ballrooms and the Jazz clubs of Chicago, New York and Kansas City. The music is dynamic expression of Louis Armstrong to the compositional artistry of Duke Ellington and the inspired improvisations of Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. Jazz has been America's Pop Music, Classical Music and explorative Art for over a hundred years, producing some of the greatest most accomplished and charismatic musicians the world has ever known.

Class: Monday thru Friday, 6pm to 10pm

Classroom: TBD

May Term Syllabus

May 15 Introduction to Jazz: Ragtime and Dixieland: Louis Armstrong

16 The Swing Era: Migration to Chicago and NYC: Goodman/Ellington

May 19 Swing (cont.): Jazz as Pop: NYC/Kansas City: Basie/Dorsey/Miller/Billie/Ella

20 Bebop: Modern Jazz Revolution on 52nd Street: Bird/Diz/Thelonious

21 Cool School and Progressive Jazz: 50s Jazz: Miles Davis/Stann Kenton

22 Movie #1 due: Midterm Exam: Miles Davis Bio

23 Hardbop: Today's Jazz origins: Jazz Messengers/Art Blakey/Coltrane

May 26 (Holiday – No Class)

27 Freejazz and Jazzrock Fusion: Jazz in the 60s: Miles Kills Jazz Slowly

28 Jazz in the 70s and 80s: from Jazzrock Fusion to Fusion to New Age to...

29 Contemporary Jazz: The Last 25 Years: Metheny/Zorn/Marsalis/et.al.

30 Movie #2 due: Semester Wrap-up: Final Exam

Home work: assignments will have you researching various Jazz people and topics to complement class discussions. These are generally assigned for the next day and must be on time for credit. NOTE: no papers will be accepted after May 29th.

Evaluation: 2 Written Exams = 100 pts. each

Home work = 50 pts. total

Movies = 25 pts. each

Total points = 300 points

90% A 80% B 70% C 60% D

This class is about cultural awareness using the history of jazz as its context. Your focus and curiosity are required to receive the benefits offered. You will achieve both academic credit and social awareness of the musical and creative arts (adding significantly to your cultural perspective) based on the sincerity of your time and energy investment. Part of the final exam will ask you to put artists and styles in chronological context.

University Curriculum Requirements as follows:

1. Creativity and Aesthetics Outcomes:

This course meets the UC requirements for a Pillars I course in Creativity and Aesthetics with the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to identify methods, techniques, or languages of a particular art form, creative endeavor or craft(s) and explain how those inform the creation, performance or analysis of creative work.

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of concepts fundamental to the creative impulse through analysis, performance or creation.

To satisfy this requirement, the class is divided into "Study Groups". Together, each group will produce 2 casual (cell phone) movies. These projects present creative challenges that parallel the elements of the Jazz music we'll study.

2. Historical Contexts Outcomes:

This course meets the UC requirements for a Pillars I course in Historical Contexts with the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to identify the main events, actors, and evidence involved in a defined historical period.

Home work assignments will illuminate class discussions in terms of these details. But the fruit of the acquired understanding will be evaluated on the written exams, particularly the Final.

3. Human Diversity Learning Outcomes:

This course meets the UC requirements Human Diversity with the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, or political conditions of identity formation and function in human society, including the ways in which these conditions influence individual or group status, treatment or accomplishments. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to differentiate and understand values different from their own.

Music is a universal language and Jazz music has provided a melting pot for all the different races and cultures in America and all over the world. Both home work and written exams will prove the student's understanding of Jazz eras and key figures within the context of cultural/racial/geographical parameters.

SMU Course Policies:

Academic Honesty and Misconduct

You are bound by the Honor Code and the SMU Student Code of Conduct.

For complete details, see: http://www.smu.edu/studentlife/PCL_01_ToC.asp

Disability Accommodations:

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Religious Observance:

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities:

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)