

Music 150 American Music: History of Jazz
College of the Holy Cross Fall 2008

Professor: Dr. Toby Mountain
Phone: 3357
Office Hours: Tuesday 1- 3, Thursday 1-3:30
Class Times: Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:15

Office: Smith Hall 437
Email: tmountai@holycross.edu
Classroom: Brooks 454

Welcome to “Music 150 – American Music: History of Jazz”

This course is an historical survey of American Jazz during the Twentieth Century. We will cover the roots and major styles of jazz chronologically, focusing on eight main periods: Roots of Jazz, Early Jazz, The Swing Era, Bebop, the Fifties, the Sixties, Jazz Fusion, and Jazz since the Eighties.

Objectives of this Course

There are two objectives to this course. One is to give you a deeper understanding of America’s indigenous music genre within an historical context. The other is to improve your listening skills, so that you can better appreciate, not just jazz, but all kinds of music.

Reading Assignments for Each Class

- 1) 15-20 pages from your required textbook: Essential Jazz: The First 100 Years. By Henry Martin and Keith Waters, Schirmer, ISBN 978-0-495-50525-9
- 2) 15-20 pages from other sources (available either as a .pdf in Moodle or on reserve in Music Library):
 - Reading Jazz, edited by Robert Gottlieb, Random House
 - Considering Genius, by Stanley Crouch
 - Keeping Time, Readings in the American Music: History of Jazz, edited by Robert Walser
 - Hear Me Talkin' to Ya', edited by Nat Shapiro and Nat Hentoff

Listening Assignments for Each Class

All listening CDs are on reserve in the Music Library, with each disc numbered according to the week, and divided into parts A and B for each class. Each listening assignment will comprise 4-8 tracks. You are required to actively listen to each track (without distraction) at least three times and take notes for class discussion. Special attention should be paid to the tracks featured in the listening guides “What to Listen for” in your textbook.

Class Presentations

Each student will do one 5-7 minute presentation in class from one of the assigned topics. You may create a Powerpoint presentation to accompany your presentation.

Papers

One 8-10 page paper, with an analysis of a jazz work, is due near the end of the semester

Exams and Quizzes

There will be a midterm and a final exam and two announced quizzes.

Grading

Final grades will be calculated as follows: Final Exam 35%, Midterm Exam 20%, Presentation 10%, Paper 20%, Quizzes 15%.

WEEK 1 Introduction

Thursday 09/04 Introduction

WEEK 2 The Roots of Jazz

Tuesday 09/09

Reading: Essential Jazz: Introduction: Jazz Basics, p. 1-16
Hear Me Talkin', "the blues.pdf"

Listening: CD 2A

Thursday 09/11

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 1, Roots, p. 17-41

Listening: CD 2B

WEEK 3 Early Jazz

Tuesday 09/16

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 2, Early Jazz, p. 42-53
Hear Me Talkin', "storyville.pdf"
Hear Me Talkin', "buddy bolden.pdf"
Reading Jazz, "Bechet and Jazz Visit Europe, 1919", p. 741-746

Listening: CD 3A

Thursday 09/18

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 2, Early Jazz, p. 53-64
Reading Jazz, "King Oliver", p. 339-346
Reading Jazz, "Jelly Roll Morton", p. 3-7
Reading Jazz, "Louie Armstrong", p. 17-26

Listening: CD 3B

WEEK 4 Early Jazz – the Twenties

Tuesday 09/23

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 2, Early Jazz, p. 64-75
Reading Jazz, "Bix Beiderbecke", p. 823-844
Hear Me Talkin', "bix beiderbecke.pdf"
Hear Me Talkin', "chicago 20s.pdf"
Hear Me Talkin', "fats waller.pdf"

Listening: CD 4A

Thursday 09/25

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 2, Early Jazz, p. 75 (Paul Whiteman)-86
Reading Jazz, "Duke Ellington", p. 32-35
Hear Me Talkin', "fletcher henderson.pdf"
Hear Me Talkin', "early duke ellington.pdf"
Hear Me Talkin', "early harlem.pdf"

Listening: CD 4B

WEEK 5 The Swing Era – the early 30s

Tuesday 09/30 **QUIZ**

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 3, The Swing Era, p. 87-96
Hear Me Talkin', "kansas city.pdf"
Keeping Time, "john hammond.pdf" "An Experience in Jazz History"
Reading Jazz, "hammond.pdf", p. 131-137

Listening: CD 5A

Thursday 10/02

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 3, The Swing Era, p. 96 (Count Basie) -107
Reading Jazz, "basie.pdf", p. 138-143
Hear Me Talkin', "benny goodman.pdf"
Reading Jazz, "Flying Home", p. 516-36 (about Charlie Christian)

Listening: CD 5B

WEEK 6 The Swing Era – the late 30s

Tuesday 10/07

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 3, The Swing Era, p. 107 (Ellington)-112
Reading Jazz, "The Big Bands", p. 468-473
Excerpt from "lush life.pdf" from "The life of Billy Strayhorn"
Reading Jazz, "Lionel Hampton", p. 122-130
Reading Jazz, "Billie Holiday", p. 144-148

Listening: CD 6A

Thursday 10/09

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 3, The Swing Era, p. 112-27
Reading Jazz, "Artie Shaw", p. 159-165
Hear Me Talkin', "segregation.pdf"

Listening: CD 6B

WEEK 7 The Swing Era – Review

Tuesday 10/14 No class

Thursday 10/16

Reading: Review all reading
Listening: Review all listening

WEEK 8 Midterm / The Bebop Era

Tuesday 10/21

MIDTERM

Thursday 10/23

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 4, The Bebop Era, p. 128-137
Hear Me Talkin', "52nd Street.pdf"

Listening:

WEEK 9 The Bebop Era

Tuesday 10/28

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 4, The Bebop Era, p. 138-151
Considering Genius, "not so dizzy.pdf" Dizzy Gillespie
Hear Me Talkin', "early bebop01.pdf"

Listening: CD 9A

Thursday 10/30

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 4, The Bebop Era, review
Considering Genius, "monk at five spot.pdf",
Hear Me Talkin', "narcotics.pdf"
Hear Me Talkin', "early bebop02.pdf"

Listening: CD 9B Miles Davis' "Birth of the Cool" album

WEEK 10 Postwar Jazz – The 50s

Tuesday 11/04

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 5, Jazz and the New Substyles, p. 152-166
Reading Jazz, “Miles Davis”, p. 243-261
Keeping Time “jazz summit meeting.pdf” Playboy magazine interview

Listening: CD 10A

Thursday 11/06

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 5, Jazz and the New Substyles, p. 167-183
Reading Jazz, “Charles Mingus”, p. 293-306
Considering Genius, “the art of mingus.pdf”

Listening: CD 10B

WEEK 11 The 60s

Tuesday 11/11

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 6, The Sixties, p. 184-206
Considering Genius, “blues for space age.pdf” Ornette Colman
Considering Genius, “titan of the blues.pdf” John Coltrane

Listening: CD11A

Thursday 11/13

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 6, The Sixties, p. 206 (Miles Davis) –220
Considering Genius, “miles davis 1961.pdf” Miles Davis in the Fever of Spring, 1961

Listening: CD 11B

WEEK 12 Jazz Rock, Jazz Funk in the 70s

Tuesday 11/18 **QUIZ**

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 7, Jazz Rock, Jazz Funk Fusion, p. 221-230

Listening: CD 12A

Thursday 11/20

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 7, Jazz Rock, Jazz Funk Fusion, p. 231-241
Considering Genius, “sellout of miles.pdf” On the Corner: The Sellout of Miles Davis”

Listening: CD 12A

WEEK 13 The 80s and 90s

Tuesday 11/25

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 8, Jazz Since the 1980s, p. 242-256
Considering Genius, “wynton marsalis.pdf” Live at the Village Vanguard: Wynton Marsalis
Keeping Time, “marsalis & hancock.pdf” Soul, Craft, and Cultural Hierarchy

Listening: CD 13

Thursday 11/27

No Class

WEEK 14 Papers / Review

Tuesday 12/02 papers due

Reading: Essential Jazz: Chapter 8, Jazz Since the 1980s, p. 257-271

Listening: CD13

Thursday 12/04 Review

Listening: CD13

WEEK 15 Review

Tuesday 12/09 Review – Jazz Jeopardy

Wednesday 12/10 Study period begins

WEEK 16

FINAL EXAM