



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2021 Summer Program

MUS 110 History of Jazz

Course Outline

Term: June 14-July 09,2021

Class Hours:10:00-11:50(Monday through Friday)

Course Code: MUS 110

Instructors: Jay Richman

Home Institution: Bert Seager

Office Hours: TBA

Email: bert@bertseager.com

Credits: 4

Course description and goals:

From its very beginning about one hundred years ago and throughout its entire history, jazz music has evolved by bringing together elements of overlapping cultures. Understanding its evolution as a reflection of the places and times it sprang from helps us appreciate the mystery, majesty, and genius of its creators.

In this course you will learn not only the relevant facts of American history that allowed this indigenous art form to flourish, but also gain an understanding of the musical innovations that propelled this art form to the future.

In this course you will gain an appreciation of how to listen and understand the music. Jazz has always excited people and I trust that this will be the same for you.

We will, of course listen intently. You will learn about rhythm as a way to understand and feel the music more deeply, sensing the basic symmetries and forms of the music. By learning to how listen, you will increase your familiarity with the sounds that the individual instruments make, giving rise to a new depth of appreciation.



My goal is to help you begin to discern for yourselves the skill level and breadth of imagination of the performers, composers, and arrangers so that you leave class with a desire to listen further to the artists you enjoyed the most, cultivating a life-long love of this music.

Course requirements:

We will meet five days each week for two hours. I will lead discussions - we will watch videos and listen to music and do some very simple musical exercises like drumming on the table top and counting to begin to better feel the music.

A short paper about a musical piece will be assigned. Your writing should be informed by our classwork and will demonstrate your repeated close listening to a track of music.

Instead of a text book we are using a video : Ken Burns 10-episode film documentary “Jazz.” Available on iTunes, YouTube, Amazon Prime. It is a wonderful movie, with great music, and performances, interviews and history, and it will help ignite your passion for this great art form. There is a version out there with Chinese subtitles.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be taken each day. The university policy is that any student who has more than three “absences” will fail the course. Any unexcused absence may impact a students grade. SUFE requires a medical certificate to be excused. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Grading:

SUFE awards grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, and F. Most colleges and universities do not award transfer credit for grades of D or F.

In this course, grading will be based on the following:

Attendance and participation (lecture watching) 25%

One two-page paper: 20%

Two assignments: 30%

Final in-class essay/listening exam 25%

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Precursors of Jazz: Up to the 1890s

The Blues- origins

Ragtime

New Orleans Jazz- the advent of recording technology

Chicago Jazz

New York piano jazz



Tutorial sessions - musical topics: pulse, meter, call and response, blues form
Assignment - understanding and counting the blues form.

Week 2

Duke Ellington
The Swing Era
Kansas City Jazz
The advent of radio
The birth of bebop
Tutorial sessions - musical topics: song form

Week 3

Bebop- Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, et al
Hard Bop- Horace Silver, Art Blakey
Blue Note Records
Miles Davis
John Coltrane
Paper assigned about two songs - Round Midnight and/or Dolphin Dance
Tutorial sessions - musical topics: playing and counting time with recordings,

Week 4

The Fragmentation of Jazz Styles
Free Jazz- Ornette Coleman
Fusion - Miles and Beyond
Latin Jazz
European Jazz- ECM Current artists/trends
The internet
Tutorial sessions :review, writing a timeline for the history
Final listening exam