



Shih Chien University
STP Program (July 01-Aug 02)
MUS 100 Survey of Jazz History
Course Outline

Course Code: MUS 100

Instructor: TBA

Home Institution: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Email: TBA

Credits: 4

Class Hours:

This course will have 144 class hours, including 50 lecture hours, professor 30 office hours, 20-hour TA discussion sessions, 10-hour review sessions, 34-hour extra classes.

Class meets on five Wednesdays at 10:00 AM EST (New York City Time)

Attendance at these five class sessions is required.

Prerequisites: N/A

Course Description:

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

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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 by drumming on your laps, marching in-place to the music, and even, on your own, singing along with it; all as a way to understand, hear, and feel it better. You will begin to both intellectually and intuitively sense the basic symmetries and forms of the music. And then be able to grasp the music's inner meanings, its ties to the blues, and its relationship with popular culture and high-brow artistic culture.

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 your appreciation. We will learn about the roles that each instrument plays and the innovations and departures from those roles that these great musicians discovered.

My goal is to help you begin to discern for yourselves the skill level and breadth of imagination of the performer, composer, and arranger so that you leave class with a desire to listen further to the artists you enjoyed the most, exploring more deeply the artists that piqued your interest, and cultivating a life-long love of this music.

Course requirements:

We are still unable to meet in person due to the pandemic. This requires that the class be taught via pre-recorded lectures. This consists of about seven hours of lectures per week that you will watch. Once each week I will require you to meet with me together as a class on Zoom remotely to go over what you have watched. We will also cover how to do the assignments, and I will answer any questions that you may have about the content and the work that is required of you.

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

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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. I have included excerpts of this in my lectures.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance for the four Zoom sessions is required. Policy is that any student who has more than three “absences” will fail the course. Any unexcused absence will lower your grade. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Grading & Evaluation:

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

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and participation: | 25% |
| One paper: | 20% |
| Two assignments: | 30% |
| Final listening exam: | 25% |

Grading System (1 ~ 100):

| Quality Points | Grade | Percentage % |
|----------------|-------|--------------|
| 4 | A | 80-100 |
| 3 | B | 70-79 |
| 2 | C | 60-69 |
| 1 | D | 50-59 |
| 0 | E | 0-49 |

Course Schedule

WEEK # 1 - Birth of Jazz

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Introductions - US History backdrop

Introduction to Rhythm

The Blues

Assignment # 1 - Mapping Blues Choruses

Ken Burns Jazz - "Gumbo"

Jazz DNA - and its birth

The birth of Jazz

The Jazz Age - Louis Armstrong

Week # 2 - The Jazz Age through the swing era

The Jazz Age - Louis Armstrong - innovator

Duke Ellington - His Music and the Cotton Club

The Depression - Benny Goodman

Assignment # 2 - Song form - transcribing Fats Waller lyrics

Harlem jazz pianists - Dancers - Billy Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald

Big Band Swing Era

Week # 3 - The years 1943 to 1963

Koko - The birth of Bebop

Bird and Diz

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Miles Davis - with Bird

Miles Davis - Kind of Blue

Assignment # 3 Singing a Miles Davis solo

Miles - the 2nd Quintet

Week # 4 - The years 1963 - 1975

John Coltrane - The tree of Jazz (linear evolution to this point)

Hard Bop - Blue Note Records

John Coltrane - A Love Supreme

Assignment # 4 - A review of a live show

Jazz Pianists - Jazz Saxophonists

Week # 5 -The Flowering of Improvised Music

Free Jazz: Questioning

Electric/Funk Fusion

The Influence of World Music

European Jazz

Today's Sounds

Summary - Timeline

Final Listening Exam

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