



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

2025 Winter Session

MUS 110 History of Jazz

Course Outline

Course Code: MUS 110

Instructor: Bert Seager, jazz pianist, composer, Faculty NEC

Home Institution: New England Conservatory, Boston Massachusetts

Email: bert@bertseager.com

Credit: 4

Class Hours:

This course will have 60 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions, 8-hour extra classes.

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

Attendance at these four class sessions is required.

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 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 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. HUFs policy is that any student who has more than three "absences" will fail the course. Any unexcused absence will lower your grade. HUFs requires a medical certificate to be excused. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Grading:

HUFs awards grades of A+, A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, 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 25%

One paper: 20%

Two assignments: 30%

Final listening exam 25%

Grading System (1 ~ 100)

A+ : 96 - 100	A : 91 - 95
B+ : 86 - 90	B : 81 - 85
C+ : 76 - 80	C : 71 - 75
D+ : 66 - 70	D : 60 - 65
F : 0 - 59	
Pa : Pass	Fa : Fail

Course Schedule

WEEK # 1 – Up to the year 1927

Lecture 1 - Introduction - US History backdrop	63 minutes
Lecture 2- Introduction to Rhythm	33 minutes
Lecture 3 - The Blues	1 hour 22 minutes
Assignment # 1 - Mapping Blues Choruses	21 minutes
Lecture 4 - Ken Burns Jazz - “Gumbo”	1 hour and 24 minutes
Lecture 5 - Jazz DNA - and its birth	42 minutes
Lecture 6 - The birth of Jazz	52 minutes
Lecture 7 - The Jazz Age - Louis Armstrong	45 minutes

Week # 2 - The years 1928 - 1942

Lecture 1 - Louis Armstrong - innovator	39 minutes
Lecture 2 - Duke Ellington - Cotton Club	44 minutes



Lecture 3 - Duke Ellington - His Music	47 minutes
Lecture 4 - The Depression - Benny Goodman	1 hour 7 minutes
Assignment # 2 - Singing Miles Davis Solo	14 minutes
Lecture 5 - Art Tatum - Dancers - Billy Holiday	24 minutes
Lecture 6 - Big Band Era	45 minutes

Week # 3 - The years 1943 to 1963

Lecture 1 - The Swing Singers - Billie Holiday	49 minutes
Lecture 2 - Koko - The birth of Bebop	43 minutes
Lecture 3 - Bird and Diz	36 minutes
Lecture 4 - Miles Davis - with Bird	45 minutes
Lecture 5 - Miles Davis - Kind of Blue	46 minutes
Assignment # 3 - Paper on listening to a piece	20 minutes
Lecture 6 - Miles - the 2nd Quintet	47 minutes

Week # 4 - The years 1963 - 1975

Lecture 1 - John Coltrane - The tree of Jazz	50 minutes
Lecture 2 - Hard Bop - Blue Note Records	45 minutes
Lecture 3 - John Coltrane -	46 minutes
Lecture 4 - John Coltrane - A Love Supreme	45 minutes
Lecture 5 - Free Jazz: Questioning	53 minutes
Lecture 6 - Electric/Funk Fusion	50 minutes
Lecture 7 - Summary - Final Exam Instructions	23 minutes