



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

2026 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 four times at 10:00 AM - EST - Eastern Standard Time (Boston time)

Attendance at these four zoom class sessions is required. You must be in a quiet place with your camera on - in a space where you are willing and able to speak.

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. You will learn about rhythm by drumming on your laps, 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, cultivating a life-long love of this music.

Course requirements:

The class will be taught via pre-recorded lectures. This consists of about six hours of lectures per week to watch. Once each week you are required to attend the class discussion live on Zoom.

You must also be ready with the timeline items assigned for that week. - The time line items must be emailed to me before class begins.

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 - *Course grade will go down by 1 letter for each absence - and down by ½ a letter grade if you are late more than 15 minutes late..*

Participation 28%

Two music assignments: 20%

Jazz Timeline 32%

Final listening exam 20%

Course grade will also go down by ½ a letter for not having your camera on or for your being unable to speak in class. It is your responsibility to have the technological aspects necessary to attend class working.

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

FIRST CLASS - **Zoom meeting**

HAND IN THE FIRST 8 TIME LINE ITEMS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.

Up to the year 1927

Lecture 1 -Introduction - US History backdrop	63 minutes -
Lecture 2- Racism and the Origins of the Blues	33 minutes
Lecture 3 - The Blues	1 hour 22 minutes
<u>Lecture 4 - Ken Burns Jazz - “Gumbo”</u>	<u>1 hour and 24 minutes</u>
<u>Lecture 5 - Jazz DNA - and its birth</u>	<u>42 minutes</u>
Lecture 6 - The birth of Jazz	52 minutes
Music Assignment # 1 - Mapping Blues Choruses	21 minutes

JAZZ TIMELINE - FOR WEEK # 1

(Use Dates When Applicable)

Collective improvisation/Congo Square

U.S. Civil War - its end - and what it was about - who won.

Blues form

The end of “Reconstruction” and the start of Jim Crow

Ragtime piano music “Maple Leaf Rag”



“Livery Stable Blues”

Prohibition

Four elements of Jazz DNA

SECOND CLASS - **Zoom meeting**

HAND IN THE NEXT 7 TIME LINE ITEMS BEFORE OUR SECOND CLASS

Week # 2 - The years 1928 - 1942

Lecture 0 - The Jazz Age - Louis Armstrong	45 minutes
<u>Lecture 1 - Louis Armstrong - innovator</u>	<u>39 minutes</u>
Lecture 2 - Duke Ellington - Cotton Club	44 minutes
Lecture 3 - Duke Ellington - His Music	47 minutes
<u>Lecture 4 - The Depression - Benny Goodman</u>	<u>1 hour 7 minutes</u>
Lecture 5 - Art Tatum - Dancers - Billy Holiday	24 minutes
<u>Lecture 6 - Big Band Era</u>	<u>45 minutes</u>

JAZZ TIMELINE - FOR WEEK # 2

(Use Dates When Applicable)

Louis Armstrong’s innovations - West End Blues

The Great Depression

The use of radio to broadcast live jazz

Duke Ellington at the Cotton Club



Benny Goodman first Carnegie Hall Concert

Swing Era dancing - Big Bands

Ella Fitzgerald - Billie Holiday

THIRD CLASS - **Zoom meeting**

HAND IN THE NEXT 8 TIME LINE ITEMS BEFORE OUR THIRD CLASS

Week # 3 - The years 1943 to 1963

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

Lecture 6 - Miles - the 2nd Quintet 47 minutes

Lecture 7 - Hard Bop - Blue Note Records 48 minutes

Music Assignment # 2 - Singing a Miles Davis Solo 16 minutes

JAZZ TIMELINE - FOR WEEK # 3

(Use Dates When Applicable)

Charlie Parker's Bebop innovations

World War II

Modal Jazz and Miles Davis's "Kind of Blue"

Hard Bop



“A Love Supreme”

“Bitches Brew”

“Getz/Gilberto”

Vietnam War

FOURTH CLASS - **Zoom meeting**

FINAL EXAM DURING CLASS

HAND IN THE NEXT 7 TIME LINE ITEMS BEFORE OUR FOURTH CLASS

Week # 4 - The years 1963 to the 1980's

<u>Lecture 1 - John Coltrane - The tree of Jazz</u>	<u>50 minutes</u>
<u>Lecture 3 - John Coltrane -</u>	<u>46 minutes</u>
Lecture 4 - John Coltrane - A Love Supreme	45 minutes
Lecture 5 - Free Jazz: Questioning	53 minutes
Lecture 6 - Electric/Funk Fusion	50 minutes
<u>Lecture 7 - Summary - Final Exam Instructions</u>	<u>23 minutes</u>

JAZZ TIMELINE - FOR WEEK # 4

(Use Dates When Applicable)

“Bitches Brew”

“Getz/Gilberto”

Free Jazz and Ornette Coleman

Vietnam War - Black Power



“Head Hunters” and fusion

CD technology

Spotify

