

Moravian College
Jazz Artists and Epochs - Syllabus
MUS 115
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Objectives

• Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of jazz in American culture and as a truly American art form.
• Students will be able to recognize different eras and styles of jazz. • Students will have knowledge of the prominent jazz musicians of each era and each player's contribution to the history of jazz.

Requirements

• Regular, punctual attendance: students are required to attend every scheduled meeting with only those absences that are excused by instructor. Instructor is to be notified of ensuing absence. In addition, students are expected to be in class and prepared by 10:20 AM, no later. Any arrival past 10:25 will result in an official tardiness and will be appropriately penalized. • Attentiveness and participation in class. • Preparation for each session / completion of assignments • Attendance at, at least, three (3) live jazz performances with a one-page typed report of each documenting attendance.
• A three-to-five-page research paper (topics to be discussed). • Occasional pop-quizzes.

Grading

• Attendance, 30%
• Participation, 10%
• Quizzes, 10%
• Mid-term exam, 10%
• Final exam, 15%
• Research paper, 15%
• Concert attendance, 10%

Text

• Required: Introduction to Jazz History (Sixth Edition) by Donald D. Megill and Richard S. Demory.

Schedule

• 16 Jan: introduction. What is jazz? What is its role in American society?
• 18 Jan: Pre-jazz - the roots of jazz; slavery and its abolition; Jim Crow laws, Cakewalks, Minstrel Shows, African/European influences. Read pp. 1-6.
• 20 Jan: Pre-jazz (cont.) - the Blues (Country Blues - Huddie Ledbetter, Robert Johnson - vs. City Blues - Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey), Work Songs. Read pp. 7-29.
• 23 Jan: New Orleans - Cosmopolitan, musical, diverse. Congo Square, Storyville, Creoles of Color, Dixieland. Read pp. 66-71.
• 25 Jan: New Orleans (cont.) - The soloists - King Oliver, Buddy Bolden, Freddie Keppard, Sidney Bechet, Kid Ory. Read pp. 90-93.
• 27 Jan: Jelly Roll Morton. Read pp. 82-88.
• 30 Jan: Louis Armstrong. Read pp. 76-77.
• 1 Feb: Louis Armstrong (cont.); Bix Beiderbecke. Chicago. The '20s, "The Jazz Age." Read pp. 78-80.
• 3 Feb: first recorded jazz (ODJB), popular "white" bands, James Reese Europe.
• 6 Feb: Missouri - Ragtime (pre-jazz) - Scott Joplin, Benny Moten. Read pp. 35-41.

ÿ 8 Feb: New York - Stride - James P. Johnson, Fats Waller. Read pp. 42-48. ÿ 10 Feb: Piano styles including Boogie-Woogie - Earl "Fatha" Hines, Erroll Garner, Art Tatum. Read pp. 50-63.

ÿ 13 Feb: The Swing Era/Big Bands. The '30s. Read pp. 99-103. ÿ 15 Feb: Fletcher Henderson, Benny Goodman. Read pp. 103-110. ÿ 17 Feb: Duke Ellington. Read pp. 111-121. ÿ 20 Feb: Ellington (cont.), Count Basie. Read pp. 123-126. ÿ 22 Feb: Count Basie (cont.), Lester Young. Read pp. 129-131. ÿ 24 Feb: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn. Read pp. 126-7; pp. 142-146.

ÿ 27 Feb: Post-Swing/transition period - Coleman Hawkins, Roy Eldridge, Don Byas. Read pp. 132-141.

ÿ 1 Mar: Mid-term review.

ÿ 3 Mar: Mid-term Exam.

ÿ 4 - 12 Mar: Spring Break. No classes held.

ÿ 13 Mar: 52nd Street, New York City/The BeBop Era. The '40s. Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Read pp. 151-161.

ÿ 15 Mar: Bop (cont.): Thelonius Monk, Bud Powell, Miles Davis, etc. Read pp. 162-169.

ÿ 17 Mar: Cool Jazz (West Coast) - Miles, Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, etc. Read pp. 196-198.

ÿ 20 Mar: Post Bop/Hard Bop - The '50s. Sonny Rollins, Clifford Brown, Art Blakey and Horace Silver (the Jazz Messengers), etc. Read pp. 170-178. ÿ 22 Mar: Hard Bop (cont.) ÿ 24 Mar: Miles Davis - Early (Bop), the first quintet; Middle Period, the second quintet; Late, free-fusion. Read pp. 196-7, 205-207.

ÿ 27 Mar: Modal Jazz - Miles, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett. Read pp. 198-201. ÿ 29 Mar: John Coltrane. Read pp. 244-248. ÿ 31 Mar: Charles Mingus. Read pp. 209-213.

ÿ 3 Apr: Free Jazz - The '60s. Ornette Coleman, Eric Dolphy, Miles.

Read pp. 235-243; pp. 248-252. ÿ 5 Apr: Free Jazz (cont.); The Third Stream. ÿ 7 Apr: Fusion/Electric Jazz - The '70s. Weather Report, Miles, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, etc. Read pp. 263-276.

ÿ 10 Apr: Fusion (cont.); Crossover - Dave Brubeck, Dave Sanborn, the Brecker Brothers, Miles, the Yellowjackets, etc. Read pp. 277-284.

ÿ 12 Apr: Mainstream/Neo-classic - The '80s. Dexter Gordon, the Marsalises, Joshua Redman, Kenny Garrett, etc. Read pp. 179-192.

ÿ 14-17 Apr: Easter Recess. No classes held.

ÿ 19 Apr: Big Band Revival/Modern Big Band - Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Toshiko

Akioshi, Maria Schneider, Jim McNeely, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Bob Mintzer, etc. ÿ 21 Apr:

Modern Big Bands (cont.) ÿ 24 Apr: Acid Jazz/Hip-Hop - The '90s. Courtney Pine, Greg Osby. ÿ

26 Apr: Research Papers Due, presentations.

ÿ 28 Apr: Final Review.

ÿ Final Exam TBA.