

## SYLLABUS Spring 2008

**Course:** Jazz Artists and Epochs MU 115  
**Instructor:** Neil Wetzel office: room 317, Brethren's House  
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Office hours: Posted on office door at end of first week of classes.

### Course Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the different eras and corresponding styles of jazz.
- Student will study and understand how noted musicians have affected or changed the development of jazz music and styles.
- Student will demonstrate a knowledge of jazz as an evolution.
- Student will demonstrate a knowledge of jazz as an influence on other styles of music (classical, pop, commercial).

### Requirements:

1. Regular, punctual attendance.
2. Class participation through discussions and appropriate note taking.
3. Completion of class assignments including 5 listening/writing assignments.
4. 2 recording projects (one each of a blues and modal jazz composition).
5. Attendance at 2 live jazz performances (with brief observation report).
6. Completion of reading assignments.
7. A 5-6 page research paper of the jazz artist covered in the paper.
8. A mid-term and final exam.

### Grading:

- 25% of grade is based on listening/reflection assignments and reading assignment quizzes.
- 10% of grade is based on attendance and class participation.
- 10% of grade is based on the mid-term exam.
- 15% of grade is based on the final exam.
- 10% of grade is based on the research paper or "Greatest Hits" project.
- 20% of grade is based on the 2 recording projects.
- 10% of grade is based on attendance at 2 live jazz performances and a written critique for each.

**Attendance:** Excused absences (accompanied by doctor's note) will not be marked against the student. Arrival after 10:30 a.m. (20 minutes after start of class) will be marked as an absence. Each unexcused absence will result in 0.5 point reduction from the final grade. It is the student's responsibility to find out about, and complete missed work/assignments due to absences.

**Assignment Policy:** Assignments are considered on time if received by 4:00 p.m. of due date. Each day late will result in a 10% deduction of the homework grade up to one week late. Assignments turned in over a week late will receive no credit.

**Academic Honesty:** Students must adhere to college-wide policies on academic honesty, as described in the Student Handbook.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Required Text:** Tirro, Frank. Jazz: A History. W. W. Norton & Company.

**Content:**

Dates	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting
Jan 14, 16, 18	Introduction and requirements of the course. Why do we study the people we do?	The seven elements of music. What is jazz and how to listen to it. <b>Read chptr. 1 for next class.</b>	Jazz performance and the instruments of jazz. Elements of jazz: African, European, American. <b>Read chptr. 2 for next class.</b>
Jan 21, 23, 25	<b>MLK Day: no classes</b>	1890-1910. Ragtime, Blues, and New Orleans (Storyville). Scott Joplin; Blues styles and artists. <b>Read chptr. 3 for next class.</b>	Blues recording project: Music department computer lab. <b>First Listening/Writing assignment due this class: Fri. Jan. 25th.</b> <b>Read chptr. 4 for next class.</b>
Jan 28, 30, Feb 1	Blues continued. Jazz & technology.	1910-1920. New Orleans to Chicago. Dixieland goes through changes. King Oliver and Louis Armstrong. <b>Read chptr. 5 for next class.</b>	1920's. White jazz musicians of jazz/pop in the roaring 20's. Paul Whiteman, Frankie Trumbauer, Bix Beiderbecke. Selection of jazz artist for project/paper.
Feb 4, 6, 8	The beginnings of big band jazz and swing. <b>Read chptr. 6 for next class.</b>	1930-1950 Beginning of the "swing era" and New York bands. Don Redman and Coleman Hawkins,	Blues performances in class <b>Second Listening/Writing assignment due this class: Fri. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup></b>
Feb 11, 13, 15	Kansas City Swing: Count Basie and Lester Young	Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller.	Blues performances in class
Feb 18, 20, 22	Big Bands: jazz or jive? White band leaders: Glenn Miller,	Blues Project CD completed and turned in.	Blues performances in class <b>Third Listening/Writing assignment due this class: Fri. Feb. 22</b>
Feb 25, 27, 29	Catch-up	Review for Mid-term.	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>
March 3, 5, 6	<b>Spring Break</b>		
March 10, 12, 14	The great singers: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn. <b>Read chptr. 7 for next class.</b>	1943-1955. Be-bop, New York as the jazz mecca. Small groups and difficult chord changes. Charlie Parker and Dizzie Gillespie.	Be-Bop influences, jazz as a voice against prejudice. <b>Read chptr. 8 for next class.</b>
March 17, 19, 21	1949-1956. The Cool School. The birth of the cool, West Coast Jazz, a reaction to Be-Bop? Gerry Mulligan, Lennie Tristano	Modal Jazz. Miles Davis,	<b>Easter: no classes</b>
March 24, 26, 28	<b>Easter: no classes</b>	1957-1960's. Hard Bop. Be-Bop one step beyond. Jazz as an art form.	John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Clifford Brown. <b>Fourth Listening/Writing assignment due Fri. March 28.</b> <b>Read chptr. 9 for next class.</b>
March 31, Apr 2, 4	1960-1970. Avant Garde. Free-jazz: where did it come from?.	Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Ornette Coleman	Modal Jazz recording project: Music department computer lab. <b>Read chptr. 10 for next class.</b>
April 7, 9, 11	1970-1980's. Jazz/Rock Fusion. Elements of rock and jazz merge.	Brecker Brothers, David Sanborn, Pat Metheny, Grover Washington Jr.	Modal Jazz recording project: Music department computer lab <b>Fifth Listening/writing assignment due Fri. April 15th.</b> <b>Read chptr. 11 for next class.</b>
April 14, 16, 18	1980's -present. Neoclassical Jazz: a return to the masters. Dexter Gordon, Wynton and Branford Marsalis.	The future of jazz: Is jazz dead? <b>Final Project Due.</b>	Modal Jazz recording project: CD is due
April 21, 23, 25	Review for exam		
April 28-May 2	<b>Final exam: day and time TBA</b>		