

Moravian College
Jazz Artists and Epochs - Syllabus
MUS 115
Tony Gairo, instructor
215-803-3951
tonygairo@gmail.com

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:** Jazz: The First 100 Years (Third Edition), Henry Martin & Keith Waters

Schedule

- 13 Jan: introduction. What is jazz? What is its role in American society?
- 15 Jan: Pre-jazz - the roots of jazz; slavery and its abolition; Jim Crow laws, Cakewalks, Minstrel Shows, African/European influences. **Read Chapter 1.**
- 17 Jan: Pre-jazz (cont.) - the Blues (Country Blues - Huddie Ledbetter, Robert Johnson - vs. City Blues - Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey), Work Songs. **Read Chapter 2.**
- 22 Jan: **New Orleans** - Cosmopolitan, musical, diverse. Congo Square, Storyville, Creoles of Color, Dixieland. **Read Chapter 3.**
- 24 Jan: New Orleans (cont.) - **The soloists** - King Oliver, Buddy Bolden, Freddie Keppard, Sidney Bechet, Kid Ory.
- 27 Jan: Jelly Roll Morton.
- 29 Jan: Louis Armstrong.
- 31 Jan: Louis Armstrong (cont.); Bix Beiderbecke. **Chicago.** The '20s, "The Jazz Age." **Read Chapter 4.**
- 3 Feb: first recorded jazz (ODJB), popular "white" bands, James Reese Europe.
- 5 Feb: **Missouri - Ragtime** (pre-jazz) - Scott Joplin, Benny Moten.
- 7 Feb: **New York - Stride** - James P. Johnson, Fats Waller.
- 10 Feb: Piano styles including Boogie-Woogie - Earl "Fatha" Hines, Erroll Garner, Art Tatum. Read pp. 50-63. **Read Chapters 5 & 6.**
- 12 Feb: **The Swing Era/Big Bands.** The '30s.
- 14 Feb: Fletcher Henderson, Benny Goodman. **Read pp. 295-8.**
- 17 Feb: Duke Ellington. **Read pp. 293-5.**
- 19 Feb: Ellington (cont.), Count Basie.
- 21 Feb: Count Basie (cont.), Lester Young. **Read pp. 285-92.**
- 24 Feb: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn.
- 26 Feb: Post-Swing/transition period - Coleman Hawkins, Roy Eldridge, Don Byas.
- 28 Feb: **Mid-term Exam.**

- **1 – 9 Mar: Spring Break.** No classes held. ****Read Chapter 7. ****

- 10 Mar: **52nd Street, New York City/The BeBop Era.** The '40s. Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.
- 12 Mar: Bop (cont.): Thelonius Monk, Bud Powell, Miles Davis, etc. **Read Chapter 8.**
- 14 Mar: **Post Bop: Cool Jazz** - Miles, Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, etc.
- 17 Mar: **Post Bop: Hard Bop** - The '50s. Sonny Rollins, Clifford Brown, Art Blakey and Horace Silver (the Jazz Messengers), etc. **Read pp. 311-8.**
- 19 Mar: **Hard Bop (cont.); Funky/Soul Jazz** – Cannonball Adderley, Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, etc. **Read pp. 298-302.**

- 21 Mar: Miles Davis - Early (Bop), the first quintet; Middle Period, the second quintet; Late, free-fusion. **Read pp. 302-6, 326-9.**
- 24 Mar: **Post Bop: Modal Jazz** - Miles, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett.
Read Chapter 9.
- 26 Mar: John Coltrane.
- 28 Mar: Charles Mingus.
- 31 Mar: **Free Jazz** - The '60s. Ornette Coleman, Eric Dolphy, Miles.
- 2 Apr: Free Jazz (cont.); The Third Stream. **Read Chapter 11.**
- 4 Apr: **Fusion/Electric Jazz** - The '70s. Weather Report, Miles, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, etc.
- 7 Apr: Fusion (cont.); Crossover - Dave Brubeck, Dave Sanborn, the Brecker Brothers, Miles, the Yellowjackets, etc. **Read Chapter 12.**
- 9 Apr: **Mainstream/Neo-classic** - The '80s. Dexter Gordon, the Marsalises, Joshua Redman, Kenny Garrett, etc. **Read pp. 298, 356-9.**
- 14 Apr: **Big Band Revival/Modern Big Band** - Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Toshiko Akioshi, Maria Schneider, Jim McNeely, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Bob Mintzer, etc.
- 16 Apr: Modern Big Bands (cont.); Contemporary soloists, players, etc.

- **18-21 Apr: Easter Recess.** No classes held.

- 23 Apr: **Acid Jazz/Hip-Hop** - The '90s. Courtney Pine, Greg Osby, the Bad Plus, Steve Coleman (M-Base), etc.
- 25 Apr: **Research Papers Due; Final Review.**
- **Final Exam TBA.**

Moravian College encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Department of Music at music@moravian.edu, or call 610-861-1650 at least one week prior to the event