Suffolk County Community College
Course Outline

Course: MUS105 – History of Jazz
Semester: Fall 2010
Section(s): 97461
Instructor: Robert Barta, Assistant Professor
Office: Orient Building Room 227
Phone: 548-3594
Email: bartab@sunysuffolk.edu

Text: Keeping Time: Readings in Jazz History
Robert Walser, Editor
Oxford University Press (1999)

Goals: To provide a solid foundation that will enable students to increase their knowledge and understanding of jazz from its conception to the present.

Objectives: After successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
1. Identify musical forms found in jazz (blues, ragtime, etc.)
2. Identify improvisational techniques
3. Identify different eras and styles in jazz history
4. Understand the relationships between jazz and socio-political trends
5. Identify the different instrumentation typical of each style

Procedures: In this class, we will cover the material through lecture and discussion of all assigned readings, in-class writing/analysis assignments and listening examples. The instructor will use a combination of techniques, including lectures, multimedia aids, and lines of questioning to relate the subject matter and encourage discussion and thought among the students. Assessments will be made using quizzes, paper assignments and a final examination.

Student Requirements: The student must complete ALL assignments, and must demonstrate proficiency on quizzes, exams and assignments. The student is responsible for all material taught or assigned by the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed assignments from a classmate or the instructor.

Supplementary Listening & Viewing: Supplementary listening will be made available on the companion website for this course section, which should be made available soon. Details will be announced in class.

Ken Burns’ PBS television documentary, Jazz, is a richly produced and detailed survey of Jazz history. We will make use of parts of it in class, and it can be viewed at the library. Some people in the Jazz world have been unhappy with the series, however, and if time permits, we will discuss some of the controversy surrounding it in class.

The campus library has a good collection of Jazz recordings, but Riverhead Free Library has the best and most accessible broad collection in the local area. You are encouraged to listen further to any artist who interests you, and listening to extra material will be required for one of the three assigned papers in this course.
Papers & Exam:
There will be three papers. The first two involve musical analysis of particular performances. The third will be a research paper of 5-8 pages, based on readings, other sources and listening to music not otherwise included in the course. These papers may not be hand-written (except for charts, diagrams, musical examples). They must include footnotes and a bibliography and/or discography as necessary. Grades on these papers will be graded on content, proper language structure (spelling/grammar) and organization. Due dates for papers will be announced in class along with specific requirements.

The final exam will include listening questions, some multiple-choice questions, and an essay question. It will be cumulative, drawing on material from the entire course.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance will be taken at each class. It is the responsibility of the student who arrives late to have the absence changed to a lateness (at the end of class). Being late for class or leaving before the end of class constitutes 1/2 an absence. The college policy on attendance allows for absences equivalent to one week's worth of regular semester class meetings. Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from the course with possible failure, or receiving a reduced grade at the instructor's discretion. Notify the instructor in case of illness. Despite absence, students must keep abreast of current material including announcements, assignments, and deadlines. All due dates must be met.

Hats and caps must be removed in the classroom. Class conduct policy is further discussed under the Special Notices section below.

Grading Policy:
- 10% - Attendance & participation
- 30% - 2 performance analysis papers
- 30% - Research paper
- 30% - 2 to 4 Quizzes (unannounced)

Special Notices:
Students are not permitted to copy any material used in class unless specifically instructed to do so. Music and printed materials are protected under federal copyright laws.

Students should read the "Guidelines for Academic Success" as printed in the student handbook.

Although not all-inclusive, conduct policy for this course prohibits the following behaviors:
- Eating or drinking in class
- Excessive or distracting conversation, including use of cellular devices as noted below
- Sleeping in class or lab
- Unauthorized use of equipment in class
- Causing or threatening harm to another student
- Academic dishonesty on any test, paper or coursework

In accordance with College policy, any student guilty of the above may receive a failing grade, be dismissed from class, and/or be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary proceedings.

Additionally, students are required to set all personal cellular devices (such as pager/beepers and cellular phones) and alarm watches to be INAUDIBLE during class times. Audio activation of such devices will be considered a disruption of class, and may result in the student being dismissed from class for the day, recorded as a lateness or absence. Any emergency or other phone conversations will be conducted outside of the classroom. Text messaging during class is strictly prohibited.

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<tr>
<th>MEETING #</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Listening to Jazz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Heritage, Blues &amp; Rags</td>
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<td>4-6</td>
<td>New Orleans to Chicago - Jazz develops</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td>Swing &amp; Duke Ellington</td>
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<td>9-11</td>
<td>Bop, Cool, Miles and &quot;Trane&quot;</td>
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<td>Fusion, Latin and Modern</td>
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