MUSC 225: History of Jazz

Instructor: Peter Lieuwen
Office: LAAH 125
lieuwen@neo.tamu.edu
Office Hours: T-TH 4-6 or by appointment

Catalog Description

Non-technical survey of jazz as America's classical music, from the earliest recorded blues through the most recent trends; examination of how jazz has broadly expressed issues of modern life.

Prerequisites None.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Define the basic musical/structural concepts of jazz including rhythm, harmony, melody, texture and form
2. Identify dominant stylistic trends in jazz music written since 1900
3. Identify the social, political and geographical influences on jazz
4. Discuss your responses to jazz critically

Text: Introduction to Jazz History (Sixth Edition) by Donald D. Megill and Richard S. Demory
Recordings: The Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz (Revised)
(Required Listening Audio Streams available at: mediamatrix.tamu.edu)

General Course Requirements:
1. Midterm Exam (30% of Final Grade)
2. Final Project (30% of Final Grade)
3. Final Exam (30% of Final Grade)
4. Class Participation (10% of Final Grade)

Final Project

Students will work in groups to create presentations that communicate, explain, and expand upon musical and historical concepts, making use of audio and visual media to help communicate the points of each presentation.

Schedule:

WEEK

1. Introduction
   T: The Roots of Jazz
   R: Work Songs

2. Preface-Ch. 1: The Blues 1900–
   T: African Roots, Sacred Music
   R: Improvisation, Black Minstrels

3. Ch. 1 cont’d
   T: Country Blues: Robert Johnson, City Blues: Bessie Smith
   R: The Blues Continues: Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Eric Clapton, and Robert Cray

4. Ch. 2: Piano Styles 1890–1940
   T: Ragtime: Scott Joplin, Stride: James P. Johnson and Fats Waller
   R: Boogie-Woogie: Jimmy Yancy and Meade 'Luky Lewis
5. Ch. 3: New Orleans Jazz and Dixieland 1910–1940
   T: New Orleans Dixieland: Joe "King" Oliver
   R: The Move to Chicago: Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke, Jelly Roll Morton, Leading Dixieland Soloists
6. Ch. 4: Swing 1934–1945
   T: Swing: Benny Goodman and Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, and Lester Young
   R: Swing in Transition
7. Ch. 4 con’t
   T: Piano Styles in Transition: "Fatha" Hines, Art Tatum, and Erroll Garner
   R: Midterm Exam
8. Ch. 5: Bebop 1943–1960
   T: The Bebop Revolution: Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie
   R: Bebop Piano: Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell Techniques
9. Ch. 5: con’t
   T: Hard Bop
   R: Bebop: Extended Techniques
10. Ch. 6: Third Stream, Cool, and Beyond 1949–
    T: Third Stream and the Avant-Garde: Miles Davis and Bill Evans, Charles Mingus and the Modern Jazz Quartet
    R: Big Bands Continue
11. Ch. 7: Free Jazz 1960–
    T: Free Jazz: Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane and Eric Dolphy, Anthony Braxton and Cecil Taylor
    R: Free Jazz into the '80s and '90s
12. Ch. 8: Jazz/Rock Fusion 1968–
    T: Rock to Fusion: An Overview, Fusion: Chick Corea
    R: Fusion to Crossover, World Influences
13. Final Projects
    T&R: Present in class
14. Final Projects
    T&R: Present in class

Exam Week: Final Exam

Attendance Policy

Your attendance is expected in each class meeting. See TAMU Student Rule 7 for details regarding excused absences: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall, room B118, or call 945-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Academic Integrity Statement

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."

Council Rules and Procedures on the web http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu