MUSL 3327 – The History of Jazz

Instructor: Erik Unsworth
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Course Description: An introduction to the development of Jazz, one of the most original and important forms of 20th-century American art

Required Text: DeVeaux, Scott & Giddins, Gary: Jazz, 2nd ed. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Intro to Class, Musical Elements & Instruments of Jazz (text Chapter 1)

Week 2: How Jazz Works in Performance – Song form & Improvisation (Chap. 2)
   Required YouTube viewing: New Orleans Jazz – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GE7k9D515a0)

Week 3: Musical Precursors of Jazz (text Chapter 3), Early Jazz Sounds

Week 4: Traditional Jazz parts 1 & 2 (chapters 4/5/6) – The “Dixieland” sound of New Orleans, New York in the 20's
   Required YouTube viewing: The Story of Jazz – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pL8yX5b3ObA)

Week 5: Traditional Jazz part 3 (chapters 4/5/6 continued) – Test 1

Week 6: Swing Era (text chapters 7/8) – Big Band Sounds
   Required YouTube viewing: The Swing Thing – BBC documentary (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APY-dar9c10)

Week 7: Swing Era, part 2 – Soloists and Vocalists (text chapters 9 & 10)

Week 8: Bebop Era (text chapter 11)
   Required YouTube viewing: The Charlie Parker Story (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAQg-55tZxg)

Week 9: Bebop Era, part 2

Week 10: Swing/Bebop Review & Test 2

Week 11: “Cool” sounds (text chapter 12)
   Required YouTube viewing: Cool Jazz – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JUSm4rCFk)

Week 12: Post-Bop era (including “Modal” & “Hard Bop” - text chapter 12 continued, chapters 13 & 14, partial)
   Required YouTube viewing: 1959, The Year That Changed Jazz (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dou3aSZmEg0)

Week 13: Free Jazz/Avant-Garde Jazz (text chapter 15)
   Required YouTube viewing: (1) Ken Burns fragment: “The Adventure” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drNQnH4jLAc
   (2) The World According to John Coltrane (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOj4YYWPLI)

Week 14: Fusion Sounds, parts 1 & 2 (text chapters 16 & 17, partial)
   Required YouTube viewing: Miles Davis: A Different Kind of Blue https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow2owSQ0Mkk

Week 15: Semester wrap-up & Test 3
Written Projects:
(1) Research Paper #1
(2) Research Paper #2
(3) Performance Review #1
(4) Performance Review #2

Grading:
- 3 Tests – 30% (10% each)
- 2 Research Papers – 30% (15% each)
- 2 Performance Reviews - 20% (10% each)
- Quiz scores averaged - 10%
- Attendance/Participation 10%

Recommended YouTube/Netflix viewing list:
1) Jazz Legends In Their Own Words (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDoHo2lpDWU)
   (Armstrong, Ellington, Basie, Gillespie, Peterson, Fitzgerald)
2) ‘Round Midnight (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Si1et6TcbuI)
3) Bix Beiderbecke (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K98UsFxW6rM)
5) Blue Note: A Story of Modern Jazz (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrHldDh74dI)
6) Queens of Jazz (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r59HKeCM4U)
7) The Billie Holiday Story – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbO4QCeRsLC)
8) Charles Mingus – Triumph of the Underdog (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2E7Xs8gD3io)
9) Chet Baker – Let’s Get Lost (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOR3Bg_BNSo)
10) Gil Evans Documentary (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do4fHA3Kt0)
11) Dexter Gordon – More Than You Know (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-ScJf6hYS4)
12) Oscar Peterson – Music In the Key of Oscar (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Hq1I5cP9tQ)
13) Jimmy Smith Documentary – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9fObWXHTv4)
14) Dave Brubeck – In His Own Sweet Way (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx7x_hEm9NY)
15) Keith Jarrett – The Art of Improvisation (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fB5YXgNX-w)
16) Women In Jazz (in 4 parts) – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLCcQvboXig)
17) Buddy Rich Documentary (in 2 parts) – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLCcQvboXig)
short Youtube clips

Armstrong “Dinah” vocal improv. Then trpt.  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhVdLd43bDI
Ellington “Isfahan”  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2U1MGX8SLU
Dorsey bros & Tatum – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lJmE4yfXs
Goodman @ Carnegie https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8aEVY910Nk
Basie band “April in Paris”  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enijgnO_UA8
Tatum “Yesterdays” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Cs_zb4q14
Bird w/ Coleman H & Lester Young & Ella F & Ray B & Buddy R – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9B9tznrdsys

Bird & Dizzy live – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcTrx0hL1ag

Celebrating Bird: The Triumph of Charlie Parker (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqorVLscxRI)

Sound of Jazz '57 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1Ok2Gjf1T4
  16:43 Basie band “Dickie's Dream”
  23:30 Monk - “Blue Monk”
  28:30 Basie band – Blues w/ Jimmy Rushing
  34:00 Billie Holiday - Blues

Miles “SO What” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzNTltOGh5c
Miles & Gil “New Rhumba” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuzP92geknY
Miles quintet “Footprints” (‘67) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0xKMxT6KGo
Miles quintet “Joshua” (‘64) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHiQl6UUrFA
Miles quintet “Round Midnight” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVHTWmTuM
Jazz Messengers “Moanin” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuZDm50EgBY
Jazz Messengers 'Night in Tunisia"
Coltrane w/ W Kelly & rhythm section “Walkin'/Theme”  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKNBTZ0TJ4g
Coltrane classic Quartet “Impressions” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03juO5oS2gg
Coltrane w/ Stan Getz & Oscar Peterson 1960 “Hackensack” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcGdmrP8Xc
Oscar Peterson trio ’64 “C Jam Blues” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTJhHn-TuDY

Sonny Rollins “The Bridge”  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4btfYA35w

Long Concerts
Monk in Concert https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBGhNxTES4I
Bill Evans trio ’65 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqCBFC1Jr0w
Miles Quintet ’67 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVFLYz0SdKg

Cannonball live concert - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBGhNxTES4I
Headhunters https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAlejqkd-gg
Weather Report https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehXUyW4-hA8
Keith Jarrett trio 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBnwDTAoAC8
Keith Jarrett trio 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QTl8Yjn7Hk