Texas A&M Corpus Christi  
School Of Music

History Of Jazz  
MUSI 3310-001  
Fall 2013 Syllabus  
Last update: 7/22/13 9:03 AM

Center For The Arts Room 228, Tuesday & Thursday at 2:00 -3:15 pm

Instructor: Robert W. Brown  
Office: CA 111  
Hours: Tues, Thurs. Fri., 2-3:15 PM  
Phone: (361) 825-3648  
E-Mail: Send Messages via Blackboard Message link.

Course Description

This course surveys the development of jazz beginning with the late 19th century and continuing to the present. The roots and evolution of various sub-genres will be explored with attention to individuals who have made prominent contributions to art form as well as cultural, economic, political, social and technological influences. Additionally critical listening skills will be developed throughout the semester as a means to identify and appreciate the many varieties of jazz.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:
1. Describe periods and styles of jazz music using appropriate terminology.
2. Have a basic understanding of the musical elements and instrumentation common to the jazz idiom.
3. Have a familiarity with a wide spectrum of prominent jazz artists from all periods.
4. Be able to describe how social change and continuity have impacted the development of jazz.

Resources

Required Text:

Essential Information:

Materials such as assignments, syllabus, course schedule, etc., will be made available in session with instructor and via the Blackboard website.

Course Work

Class Participation

This course will meet twice a week for lectures and discussion. Students should carefully read assigned materials and experience musical examples which are included with the text and are also supplemented on Blackboard. Participation in class sessions entail thoughtful discussion offered by students over the covered material.

Short Quizzes

Short quizzes may be assigned on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Exams

Test #1  Roots and Early Jazz
Test #2  Swing
Test #3  Modern Jazz
Test #4  Break With The Past

Final Exam Date and Time TBA
Schedule

Class Schedule (28 meetings)

Week 1  Introduction (one meeting)
Week 2  Chapter 3, The Roots of Jazz, Chapter 4, New Orleans
Week 3  Chapter 5, New York In The 1920s
Week 4  Chapter 6, Louis Armstrong And The First Great Soloists

Test #1 Roots and Early Jazz

Week 5  Chapter 7, Swing Bands
Week 6  Chapter 8, Count Basie And Duke Ellington
Week 7  Chapter 9, Swing Era Soloists, Chapter 10, Rhythm In Transition

Test #2 Swing

Week 8  Chapter 11, Bebop
Week 9  Chapter 12, The 1950s: Cool Jazz and Hard Bop
Week 10 Chapter 13, Jazz Composition In The 1950s
Week 11 Chapter 14, The Modality of Miles Davis and John Coltrane

Test #3 Modern Jazz

Week 12 Chapter 15, The Avant-Garde
Week 13 Chapter 16, Fusion I
Week 14 Chapter 17, Fusion II

Test #4 Break With The Past

Week 15 Conclusion (One Meeting)

Final Exam Date and Time TBA

Grading

Course assignments will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Discussion</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online and class quizzes (12 best of 14)</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (4 @ 100 pts each)</td>
<td>400 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Final grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>901-1000 pts</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>701-734 pts</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>868-900 pts</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>668-700 pts</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>845-867 pts</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>635-667 pts</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>801-844 pts</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>601-634 pts</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>768-800 pts</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>0-600 pts</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>735-767 pts</td>
<td>C</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Attendance Policy

Students who miss class frequently usually do poorly or fail. For that reason you are required to attend class each class period. Work missed in an excused absence can't always be made up. Class participation grade will reflect a zero for days missed. Since every class is essential, attendance is necessary for success. If you must miss class due to an illness or emergency, please call me, or leave a message on my voice mail prior to class. After 2 absences, each unexcused absence will drop your final grade 1 point.

**** After 4 absences, your grade will be an automatic F. ****
This is a music department policy

Assignments

It is your responsibility to keep up with daily reading and listening assignments. I may test you on details of the reading assignments whether or not we have discussed the material in class. You will need to complete a series of study questionnaires posted on Blackboard that will cover your reading material. The specifics of these tasks will be detailed on Blackboard. Listening assignments are essential to this course. Listening often to jazz will greatly improve student's acquisition of the course materials!

Please note: Instructor does not accept late assignments or give make up exams.

Preparing For Class

Time in class will primarily be spent in discussion of assigned materials. Reading assignments are usually one chapter of the Starr text per week. Listening and experiencing music from all the time periods is essential to this class. Occasionally I will ask you to read or listen to materials from. Plan to budget an average of two to three hours per week in preparation for this class. Come to class prepared to discuss assignments.

This is an upper division class and I expect the quality of your work to reflect this in your discussion and in the quality of your work.
Classroom Decorum

- **Ask Questions.** If you do not understand something, please ask a question either in class, via email, or make an appointment with me.
- **Arrive on time.** Three tardies constitute one absence. Three early departures constitute one absence.
- **Stay focused** on class discussion.
- **Turn off cell phones,** pagers and other electronic devices during class. No texting or sending emails in class.
- **Laptops are allowed at the discretion of the instructor** and may only be used for class related work. The first infraction will result in the immediate suspension of this privilege.

Tech Stuff

Students who experience problems logging into their Blackboard, timing out of their course, using the course web site tools or experience other technical problems, should be encouraged to contact the IT Help at computer.helpline@tamucc.edu or call (361) 825-2692.

The Fine Print

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeals:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
Disabilities Accommodations: 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Syllabus Updates

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes.