

University of Indianapolis
School for Adult Learning
MUS – 112 – AU1: Introduction to Jazz
(2-credit hours)

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Fall Session, 2008
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Class Meetings: Mondays on November 3, 10, 17, December 1, 8
6:00 to 9:45 p.m.

Welcome to Introduction to Jazz. We are going to journey together through the last century and follow the birth of this American art form up to the present day.

Following are some tips for success in this class:

- ❖ Attend all classes.
- ❖ Complete all reading and listening assignments on time.
- ❖ Be prepared for classroom discussion and interaction.
- ❖ Have fun.

Course Summary:

Students will have a weekly reading assignment, which they will be tested over. The text is augmented with listening examples and those examples will also be incorporated in the weekly exam. Students will also keep a listening journal in which they will record their reactions and observations. These journals must be comprised of at LEAST 3 separate examples of Jazz. A written topics paper will be submitted on the last day of class. A list of suitable topics will be distributed to the class on the first day.

Instructor Availability:

The best way to communicate with me is via email. I will also be available before and after class. I would also be happy to meet with you by appointment.

Required Texts:

Concise Guide to Jazz, 5th/Edition Mark C. Gridley, Heidelberg College

ISBN: 0-13-227221-0.

Publisher: Prentice Hall

Copyright: 2007

The CDs that come with this book will provide the majority of the listening examples

Course Description:

This course focuses on the development of jazz in Western culture starting with New Orleans Dixieland, Ragtime, the Blues and continuing through our own. That's over 100 years of music! In these five sessions, we will learn about the rudiments of music that guide, shape, and define this unique art form.

Course Goals:

This course is designed to give the student a greater grasp of jazz history and how music of today fits into that larger picture. The University Learning Goals that we will incorporate into this course are:

1. Critical thinking – students must demonstrate an understanding of the form and function of the jazz idiom, recognize its various styles and their relationships to a historical timeline.
2. Creativity – students should demonstrate an increased awareness and sophistication in how jazz is constructed and executed.

Student Learning Objectives:

Successful students will

- ❖ Recognize and use music terms and notation
- ❖ Record and analyze music from varied eras
- ❖ Compare and contrast music eras and how they fit into a historical context
- ❖ Research a composer and review that composer's contribution to jazz history

Course Policies:

Attendance: Students will earn 10 points each time they attend an entire class meeting. They must show up on time and stay until class is dismissed. This class contains a great deal of interaction and it is imperative that you are present.

Statement on Plagiarism and Cheating: “Plagiarism and cheating are contrary to the ideal of academic integrity and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of someone else as one's own. Cheating is defined as dishonesty of any kind in connection with assignments or examinations; it applies to both giving and receiving unauthorized help. The disciplinary action that will be taken includes receiving a zero for the questioned assignment, failing the course, having an academic misconduct statement placed in your file, being excluded from the SAL program and even being expelled from the University.

Late Work: I will not accept late work under ANY circumstances. All assignments are collected by the end of the class session. If you would like for me to review your late work for input, that is acceptable, but no credit will be given.

Withdrawal: It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from class. Students must withdraw by Friday of the first week of class to receive a financial refund.

Services for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please inform me immediately so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. Students with a disability must register with the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) in Schwitzer Center 206 (317-788-6153 / www.uindy.edu/ssd) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. You are responsible for initiating arrangements for accommodations for tests and other assignments in collaboration with the SSD and the faculty.

Assignments

Weekly listening journal (25 points each, 100 points total) – You will be required to keep a weekly listening journal for the duration of the five weeks of the course. In this journal you will choose at LEAST 3 different musical selections per week to which you will listen. These selections will be found independently from the classroom materials. The musical selections are completely at your discretion, but you will need to make sure they are of the jazz variety. No pop, rock, etc. If you have questions, I will clarify at the first class session. You will list the title of the composition, composer and instrumentation if given.

Example:

Duke Ellington's "Harlem Airshaft"

Ellington's Big Band, 1940: 3 trumpet, 3 trombones, 4 saxophones, piano, guitar, bass, and drums.

You will then need to write a minimum of one paragraph (5 sentences or more) on EACH listening selection. This paragraph can be a personal reaction to the piece or it can be a comparison to the other selections that you have chosen.

The pages on which you keep this journal must be stapled together with your name clearly marked. I DON'T want to receive a binder or spiral notebook from you on this assignment. You will want to type these reaction/comparisons to make it easier for me to read and grade.

EXTRA CREDIT: If you would like to submit 4 listening examples per week you will receive an additional 25 points of credit. If you can submit 5 listening examples per week you receive an additional 50 points of credit.

Topics Paper (150 points) By the end of the first evening you will have chosen your topic for a five-page paper. I will submit a list of topics to choose from and we will thoroughly discuss them in class. The papers will be read aloud on the last session with a brief question and answer time. This will be painless...trust me. The papers will be weighted as 125 points for content and 25 for mechanics. The format should be 1-inch margins top and bottom, 1.5-inch margins left/right and 12-point font. With the advantage of word processors, spelling errors are a strict know-know.

Exams (50 points each, 200 points total) There will be four weekly exams covering the readings and the notes taken in lecture. There will be a sample exam given on the first day of class which will not count toward your grade. It will simply give you an idea about what to study for and how I test.

Grading Scale

467-500 points = A	450-466 points = A-	
433-449 points = B+	416-432 points = B	400-415 points = B-
383-399 points = C+	366-382 points = C	350-365 points = C-
333-349 points = D+	316-332 points = D	300-315 points = D-
299 points or less = F		

Grading

Assignment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Attendance	50	
Journal #1	25	
Exam #1	50	
Journal #2	25	
Exam #2	50	
Journal #3	25	
Exam #3	50	
Journal #4	25	
Exam #4	50	
Final Paper & Presentation	150	
TOTAL POINTS	500	
Extra Credit	50	

Class Schedule

Monday, November 3, 2008

Course introduction

Syllabus overview

**Read Gridley, "Concise Guide to Jazz" Chapters 1 and 2

**Have completed by this evening, as we will be having a test on...

Mock exam on "Jazz Roots"

Select topic for "Topics Paper"

Class lecture and active listening

Monday, November 10, 2008

Read Gridley, Chapter 3 and 4

Have reading completed by this date

Exam #1

Discussion of listening journals

Class lecture and active listening

Monday, November 17, 2008

Excursion to the Jazz Kitchen

Discussion of listening journals

Critical analysis of Performane

Class lecture and active listening

Monday, December 1, 2008

Read Gridley, Chapters 5

Have reading completed by this date

Exam #3

Discussion of listening journals

Class lecture and active listening

Monday, December 8, 2008

Read Gridley, Chapters 6-7

Have reading completed by this date

Final Exam due

Discussion of listening journals

Presentation of Topics Papers

Evaluations