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Intro to Jazz

Jon De Lucia
CUNY City College

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Introduction to Jazz - Spring 2022

MUS 14500 and BLST 31177

Sections P and R

Instructor:

Professor Jon De Lucia (Day-loo-CHEE-uh)

Contact:

There will be a questions discussion forum on Blackboard created for general questions, and for private matters you can email me at jdelucia@ccny.cuny.edu. I will respond to your email as quickly as I can, no longer than 24 hours. Make sure to look for Announcements from me on Blackboard every week.

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 1-2 pm, must be scheduled in advance. We can also schedule a Zoom meeting.

Class Meeting:

Section P : 2 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Section R : 3:30 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Section P will meet in Room 282 in Shepard Hall. Section R will meet in Room 308, Shepard Hall

Course Description:

An introduction to the important figures and diverse styles of jazz. Emphasis will be on listening to jazz and its unique characteristics including identifying various instruments and their roles in jazz ensembles. The influence of folk and popular music from all related cultures will be discussed as well as social issues that affected the music's growth and

popularity. This year more than others we will focus on the history of this music as it pertains to race and social justice.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Listen to a piece of music critically and actively, and identify basic musical elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, etc.
2. Identify and discuss the musical differences between various genres, styles, composers, and historical eras.
3. Understanding the social and historical context of the music we are listening to, and learning about the lives of the musicians creating it.
3. In addition to gaining an academic understanding of jazz music, this course also aims to inspire and encourage students to seek out, listen to, study, and appreciate jazz music (and all music, for that matter) for the duration of their lives!

Required Materials:

There is no required textbook for this class. **All of the materials for the class (video and written lectures, slide shows, video links) are available on the CUNY Academic Commons, here:**

mus145.commonscny.cuny.edu

Follow the schedule posted here, and click on the links for the related materials.

You will find slide lectures, Youtube links, PDF readings, Google Docs, my own videos and more. **Assignments will still be submitted through Blackboard**, so make sure you can access the course there as well.

Note: You must use your CCNY email address in Bb (log in to the CCNY Portal, click Blackboard, then Update Email in the Tools menu). If you add a non-CCNY domain email address in this window, you will not receive important course announcements.

The more time you spend with these online materials, the more material we can cover in the classroom, meaning more music!

Grading:

25%.....The Five Written Assignments
20%.....Quizzes and In-Class assignments
20%.....Midterm Exam
25%.....Final Exam
10%.....Participation

Written Assignment Guidelines:

Papers and most other assignments will be submitted in Blackboard.

Essays are expected to be grammatically correct and formatted correctly. 12pt, Times New Roman, double-spaced, with a proper heading for the class at the top left corner of the page:

Your Name
MUS 145 Intro to Jazz
Spring 2022
Prof. Jon De Lucia

I will ask for citations on occasion, meaning footnotes, parentheticals, and/or a bibliography. This depends on the assignment. Strict adherence to formal citation procedures not required, but if you cite a source, I want to be able to tell where it came from.
For proper formatting I suggest that you upload your papers as PDF or Word Documents, rather than typing directly into Blackboard.

Participation:

Asking and answering questions in class is a huge part of what makes this course fun and engaging. In addition, new this semester I will be posting the best papers on the Academic Commons Blog, achieving this will also factor into your final participation grade.

Technical Support:

If you find a broken link, or an assignment that is missing or loading incorrectly please let me know by email as soon as you can. I do my best to check all broken links but count on

you to let me know if things aren't working correctly. If you have more general Blackboard problems, you can go through Blackboard's tech support, or same for problems with Zoom.

Academic Integrity:

The university has a published policy on academic integrity that may be found at <http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/current/integrity.cfm>

Ignorance of this policy is no excuse. A student who cheats or plagiarizes may incur academic and disciplinary penalties, including failing grades, suspensions, or expulsion.

Midterm and Final Exams:

The midterm will be made up of multiple choice questions, short response, matching terms and a short essay response to a listening example. The Final will be more of a listening identification test. More on this as we get closer.

Midterm Exam Date: Tuesday April 5th

Final Exam Date: None

All late course work must be in by May 23 at Midnight! I will absolutely not accept any work after this deadline.

Written Assignment Schedule (this does not include any shorter written assignments that may be in your Course Units)

#1 - Personal Essay. Due Monday, February 7th.

“The Role of Music in my Life”

In the Discussion Forum for this assignment on Blackboard, write a couple of paragraphs describing the role that music plays in your life, and attempting to answer questions like: Do you listen to music every day? What genres do you prefer? Who is your favorite artist? Do you enjoy listening to a particular kind of music? Does music play a role in your friendships?

#2 - Short Writing 1. 2-page minimum, due Monday, February 28th.

“What is jazz?”

This assignment is designed to help you familiarize yourself with research methods and tools. Using your textbook, the Internet, CUNY Library, including the Music Library at CCNY and other sources of your choice write a short essay attempting to define jazz. Where did it originate and when? What are the characteristics of this genre? Quote your sources, indicating at least the author and title of the book and/or article. If you use the Internet, include the web-address and, if possible, title and/or author. Use a minimum of three sources. This assignment is not intended to test the accuracy of your answer, rather the quality of your research methods.

#3 - Short Writing 2. 3-page minimum, due Monday, March 28th.

For this assignment you will be asked to write an album report. Choose from the five albums provided in the Google Drive at www.jondelucia.com/citycollege. Listen to the entire album, but only choose three tracks to focus on and talk about in the paper. Provide a technical description of what you're hearing, but keep the language simple. Also be sure to provide as much historical context and information about the personnel as you can. Reviews and personnel listings are often available on wikipedia and allmusic.com.

#4 – Reading Response. 3-page minimum, due Thursday, April 28th.

Write a response paper to Lewis Porter's "Reactions to Bebop." Chapter will be given out in class, along with prompts for your response.

#5 - Concert Report. 3-page minimum, due Thursday, May 19th.

If live music is still not happening, I will share a list of 10-20 excellent full concert videos on Youtube, spanning the history of jazz. You will also be able to choose from the many livestreams happening right now. Click around, listen a bit, and when you find one you may be interested in, turn off the lights and watch the whole thing as though you were there. Notice how the performer(s) engage you and take notes, maybe on a second viewing. Do some background research on the performers, compositions, venue, and anything else you can find. Your textbook is a good source. If you do not find any material, I can help you find it. After the concert, try to compare your expectations with the performance you have heard. Did you expect something different based on what you have read? Use the concepts studied in class to motivate your answer. I will be sharing some examples of students previous works to help guide you.

Note on grading of written work Written assignments will be graded not only on the quality of their content, but on quality of writing as well. Please take time to **outline, revise and proofread** your essays!

As part of the College's General Education Curriculum, this course is designed to enhance your understanding of artistic issues and how they are studied. Students successfully completing this course will develop the following:

Oral and written communication skills - Students will produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.

Critical thinking skills - Students will evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.

Information literacy skills - Students will gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.

Creative expression proficiency – Students will identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring creative expression.

II. In addition, please review your **course activities/assignments and course learning outcomes to ensure that they align with at least two of the following** additional General Education outcomes:

- Analyze how arts from diverse cultures of the past serve as a foundation for those of the present, and describe the significance of works of art in the societies that created them.
- Articulate how meaning is created in the arts or communications and how experience is interpreted and conveyed.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the skills involved in the creative process.
- Use appropriate technologies to conduct research and to communicate.

Weekly Schedule

Week One: February 1-5

Orientation

- Watch [Intro Video](#)
- Read Intro Message
- Read [Syllabus](#)

In Blackboard:

- Post Writing Assignment #1 in the Discussion Forum by Monday February 7th
 - Complete Syllabus Survey by Monday February 7th
-

Week Two: February 7-12

NO CLASS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8TH

Unit 1: Music Fundamentals

- Video Lectures: [Beat and Tempo](#), [Meter](#), [Rhythm and Syncopation](#)
- Video Lectures 2: [Pitch](#), [Pitch Pt. 2](#), [Dynamics](#), [Timbre](#)

Reading Materials: [Music Fundamentals PDF](#)

Week Three: February 14-18

Unit 1: Music Fundamentals

- Lecture 3: [Scales](#), [Melody](#)
- Lecture 4: [Harmony and Tonality](#), [Dissonance and Consonance](#), [Texture](#), [Form](#)

Reading Materials: [Music Fundamentals PDF](#)

Week Four: February 21-25

QUIZ ON MUSIC FUNDAMENTALS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22nd.

Unit 2: Roots of Jazz

- Lecture 1: How Jazz Works
 - [Art Blakey Video with Commentary](#)
 - [Art Blakey Video without Commentary](#)
 - Two videos on the rhythm section, meaning guitar, bass, drums, piano etc. from Jazz at Lincoln Center: <https://youtu.be/fT4H2xEE9NM> — <https://youtu.be/ITsluHrangl>
 - [Here's one specifically on trading](#)
 - [John Clayton's "The Walking Bass" with a Big Band accompaniment.](#)

Reading Materials: [Instruments of Jazz](#) (from *Jazz*, Giddins and Deveaux)

- Lecture 2: Roots of Jazz: Africa and the Blues

Reading Materials: [Google Slides on the Roots of Jazz](#), [Handout of African Music Characteristics](#) (David Baker), [Guided Listening of the Blues and the African Tradition](#).

Assignment: Complete Essay #2 for Monday, February 28th.

Week Five: February 28 – March 4

Unit 2: Roots of Jazz

- Lecture 3: Roots of Jazz: Ragtime
- Lecture 4: Roots of Jazz: Brass Bands

Reading Materials: [Ragtime and Brass Bands Guided Listening and History](#), [Pre-jazz Styles Handout](#) (David Baker)

Week Six: March 7-11

QUIZ ON ROOTS OF JAZZ AND EARLY JAZZ CHARACTERISTICS THURSDAY MARCH 10th.

Unit 3: Early Jazz

- Lecture 1: New Orleans

Reading Materials: “Omar” – excerpt from [Treat it Gentle – Sidney Bechet](#), New Orleans Bands excerpt from [Treat it Gentle – Sidney Bechet](#)

- Lecture 2: New Orleans and Early Jazz

Reading Materials: [Google Slides adapted from Jazz, Giddins and Deveaux](#), [Early Jazz Style Characteristics](#)

- Lecture 3: Louis Armstrong

Reading Materials: [Louis Armstrong Google Slides adapted from Jazz](#), [Louis Armstrong Bio Handout](#), [Louis Armstrong Guided Listening](#)

Week Seven: March 14-18

Unit 3: Early Jazz

- Lecture 4: New York and Stride Piano

Reading Materials: [Google Slides on Paul Whiteman and Stride Piano](#) adapted from *Jazz*, [Guided Listening and Videos on Paul Whiteman and Stride Piano](#)

- Lecture 5: Bix and Beyond

Reading Materials: [Google Slides with Embedded Video/Audio on Bix Beiderbecke](#)

Week Eight: March 21-25

QUIZ ON LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND BIX TUESDAY MARCH 22nd.

Unit 4: The Swing Era

- Lecture 1: Swing

Reading materials: [Google Slides on Swing](#) adapted from *Jazz*, [Big Band Swing Characteristics](#)

- Lecture 2: Basie vs. Ellington

Reading materials: [Google Slides on Basie and Ellington](#) adapted from *Jazz*, [Guided Listening to Basie, Ellington and Kansas City Swing with Mary Lou Williams](#)

Assignment: Complete Essay #3 for Monday, March 28th.

Week Nine: March 28-April 1

Unit 4: The Swing Era

- Lecture 3: Swing Era Soloists
- Lecture 4: Midterm Review

Reading Materials: [Google Slides on Hawk, Pres, Benny Carter, Ella and Billie](#) adapted from *Jazz*, [Listening Guide to Hawk, Pres, Ella and Billie](#)

Assignment: Review Midterm Review Sheet and Study for Midterm on Tuesday April 5th.

Week Ten: April 4-8

April 5th MIDTERM EXAM

Unit 5: Bebop

- Lecture 1: Bird and Diz

Reading Materials: [Google Slides on Bebop](#), [Guided Listening for Bebop](#)

Week Eleven: April 11-15

Unit 5: Bebop

- Lecture 2: Bebop, Part Two – Monk and Bud

Reading Materials: [Monk and Bud Google Slides](#), [Guided Listening for Monk and Bud Powell](#)

Unit 6: Cool Jazz and Hard Bop

- Lecture 1: Cool Jazz

Reading Materials: [Google Slides on Cool Jazz](#), [My Notes on Cool Jazz](#)

Assignment: Submit Essay #4 by Thursday April 28th.

Week Twelve: Spring Recess

Week Thirteen: April 25-29

- Lecture 2: Cool Jazz and Hard Bop

Reading Materials: [Cool Jazz Pt. 2 and Hard Bop Google Slides](#), [Cool Jazz and Hard Bop Guided Lecture](#)

- Lecture 3: Hard Bop Continued

Reading materials: [Hard Bop Slides](#), [Hard Bop's Finest Soloists Guide](#)

Week Fourteen: May 2-6

Unit 7: Modal Jazz and Beyond

- Lecture 1: Miles and Coltrane Part One

Reading Materials: [Modality Google Slides](#), [Miles and Coltrane Guided Listening](#)

- Lecture 2: Miles and Coltrane Part Two

Reading Materials: [Miles and Coltrane Slides Cont.](#), [Miles and Coltrane Guided Listening Cont.](#)

Week Fifteen: May 9-13

Unit 8: The Avant-garde

- Lecture 1: The Avant-garde
- Lecture 2: The Avant-garde and Civil Rights pt. 2

Reading materials: [Avant-garde Google Slides](#), [Avant-garde Guided Listening](#)

Unit 9: Fusion

- Lecture 1: Fusion

Read: [Fusion Slides](#), [Fusion Guided Listening](#)

Assignment: Submit Final Concert Report by May 19th.

There is no final exam, the final paper is due on Thursday, May 19th, by midnight.

No late work accepted after May 23, no exceptions!