Syllabus—History of Jazz

HISTORY OF JAZZ MUSIC-Spring 2013
Music 1108
(Version–3/7/13)

Professor: Kip Lornell

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 12:45PM - 2:00PM

How to Contact Me: 301-920-0991 (H) & klornell@gwu.edu [I am easily reached via e-mail, but phone calls are ok]

Office Hours: This semester I’m am usually on campus after 10:45AM on Tuesday and Thursday. Be aware that I am teaching another class at 11:10AM on Tuesday and Thursday, so its best to check with me, either via e-mail or just before/or after class, to determine an agreeable time to talk in person. My office is in Phillips B-142, across the hall from the Music Department office. We are located in the basement of Phillips Hall, directly across from Gelman Library.

PURPOSE: To provide a musical, cultural, and historical overview of jazz. This class assumes no previous knowledge of music and will consist of an historical, generally chronological survey from approximately 1880 to the present. Emphasis will be placed on important performers, stylistic schools, and periods in order to understand and assess their musical achievements. Social and cultural issues will also be considered.

Expected outcome:

1) An understanding of the development of jazz as a form of (African) American music from the 1890s to the present.

2) The ability to distinguish among musical performances from the different eras of jazz from traditional New Orleans jazz through swing and be-bop to the present day.

3) Identify and understand the importance of such figures as Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker and John Coltrane.

4) An understanding of the role that jazz has played in our cultural, racial, and musical history.
Text: John Hasse and Tad Lathrop *Discover Jazz* and its' Pearson MyMusicLab.com component.

ASSIGNMENTS: Reading, listening, viewing assignments will be given on a topic-by-topic basis.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states::

“Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see:
http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

For university policies on teaching, see http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/Teaching/main.htm

ATTENDANCE: Lecture attendance is absolutely critical because a significant amount of the course material will be covered only in the classroom. Although I will not do so on a regular basis, I reserve the right to take attendance and to consider attendance and class participation as a minor factor in the final grading. The examination material will be taken from classroom presentations as well as from the required reading and listening.
GRADES: “Pre-Bop Exam”– End of February  [35% of your grade]

Live Performances/Jazz Concert Report-- During the semester you must attend one jazz performances either on campus or around Washington, DC. If you wish to attend a jazz performance outside of the DMV, check with me first to make certain that it fits the bill. The easiest option is the Friday noon-1:30PM jam session, which is held in the basement of Phillips Hall in Room B-120. There are other free/very inexpensive events on campus, including the mid-April GWU Spring jazz festival. You must submit a brief (approximately 2 page) typed “response/report” that includes basic factual information [such as the date, performers, that week’s musical focus, tunes] as well as your own more subjective impression. April is “Jazz Appreciation Month,” an event begun by John Hasse at the Smithsonian, and there are lots of free or inexpensive concerts around town every April.  
[10% of your grade]

Final Exam---Consult the exam schedule [55% of your grade].

Jazz History Concert Report

You must attend one “live” jazz performances during the semester and write a concert report for this performance. A concert report is a brief writing assignment of no more than two double-spaced type written pages (approximately 600 words) that allows you to discuss any interesting or noteworthy aspect of the performance. Your personal perspective is important, as are any technical or analytical observations. Listing tunes is fine, but an “A” report must be more critical and well reasoned. Suitable and noteworthy off-campus concerts will be announced in class. Virtually any jazz performances will be acceptable--there are many listed in the “Weekend” section of The Washington Post and in the City Paper, though it would be prudent to clear a specific concert with Professor Lornell. YOUR CONCERT REPORT IS DUE NO LATER THAN 4/30/13 and may be turned in on the final day of class or placed in Professor Lornell's mail box in the Music Department.

Grading: [A] will be assigned to a particularly well-written, imaginative, or otherwise exceptional reports. [B] will be assigned to all reports turned in on time, meeting the above criteria, and clearly written. [C] will be assigned to reports that are unfocused, sloppily presented, poorly-written, or otherwise deficient, but acceptable. [D] will be assigned to a paper with even more “issues.” [F] will be assigned to a paper never received or with
profound problems.

MUSIC 103 Jazz History & Appreciation
Jazz Performance Questionnaire

Your Name
____________________________________________________

Name of Venue, City
____________________________________________________

Date of Performance ________________________________

Name of Group or Artists
____________________________________________________

Group Instrumentation
____________________________________________________

Describe the atmosphere of the venue, considering audience size, attentiveness, acoustics of the room, noise level (audience and music), rapport between musicians and audience, enthusiasm level of musicians and audience.

How would you describe the overall style of the music? (conventional swing “straight ahead,” more dissonant and experimental, boisterous, intimate, jubilant, angry, more blues or pop oriented, entertaining, introverted or self-absorbed, a mix of several of the aforementioned)

Describe the sound and improvisational style of two or three of the musicians (edgy to soft sound, display a lot of technique, create unusual sounds, strong sense of groove or rhythmically free, very melodic and tuneful or dissonant and broken sounding)

Describe some of the repertoire played at the performance (popular songs or “standards,” original material, styles of songs such as swing, slow
ballads, Latin or pop/rock, blues, modern bop)

**EXTRA CREDIT**—You may attend one live & local “event” during the semester, which you may use to increase your “Pre-Bop Exam” or your “Final Exam” grade by one-half grade (ie. From a “B” to a “B+”). This must be an "event," such as a lecture, lecture-demonstration, or a film about jazz, which **may** include a live musical performance as part of the event. It can't, however, be a purely musical performance, which is the province of your "concert report." You must “write-up” this event in a (satisfactory) manner over the course of one double-spaced typed page. This is also due no later than 4/30/13

**Late Assignments/Papers:** Unless you have a clear, legitimate excuse--such as illness, family emergency, serious weather issues--that you have discussed with me, I will deduct 1/2 a grade for every 24 hour period that the assignment is handed to me after the due date.

**A VERY BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE:**

Chapter 1: Introducing Jazz
Chapter 2: Listening to Jazz
Chapter 3: The Birth of Jazz
Chapter 4: Early Jazz
Chapter 5: The Swing Era
Chapter 6: Bebop and Modern Jazz
Chapter 7: Mainstream Jazz
Chapter 8: Free and Exploratory Jazz
Chapter 9: Fusion
Chapter 10: Latin Jazz
Chapter 11: Jazz Worldwide
Chapter 12: Jazz Forward