

## **MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE MUS 151 SUMMER SUBTERM B:**

### **THE HISTORY OF JAZZ**

Subterm B-Independent Study/Internet Course (Blackboard), 3 credit hours Instructor: Dr. Timothy Duncan, tduncan@marybaldwin.edu, mailing address: P.O. Box 971 Halifax, VA 24558

Assignment Schedule: Communication between faculty and students will be primarily by email and Canvas. Students are encouraged to email me with any questions regarding reading assignments or expectations on regular assignments. Assignments must be completed by the end of each week given below. Discussions and listening assignments will also be included on Canvas each week .

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will attempt to explore Jazz from its early stages through its development and transformation during the 20th century. Stemming from blues, folk music, minstrelsy, ragtime, and other influences, Jazz has grown to encompass a variety of styles, textures, and personalities. Students will explore the basic musical forms used in Jazz and what numerous artists have done to personalize those forms; they will also gain an appreciation for the variety of styles, mediums, and improvisational skills used in Jazz. Students need not have background knowledge of other musical genres to find enjoyment in this ever-changing and developing musical phenomenon: **Jazz. This course satisfies a requirement in the Common Curriculum for Learning Outcome 2b. Race and Ethnicity. (D)**

TEXT AND CD SET: DeVeaux, Scott and Gary Giddins, *Jazz*, 2nd Edition, W.W. Norton and Co., New York, 2009. Go to <http://digital.wwnorton.com/jazz2> and purchase the Ebook (\$55.00) which includes listening examples embedded in text. Listening examples (Youtube) will also be provided in the Course Module where the corresponding reading is assigned. If you choose to purchase the printed version, be sure (in advance) that you will be able to receive it **before** the Summer School Subterm B starts. The ISBN number is 978-0-393-93706-0.

### **CLASS CALENDAR: Assignments Due**

LEARNING MODULE 1: Monday, July 5, 2021: Read Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 7-36; Chapter 1 will be more of a discussion of musical terms and innovations that were important in the creation of jazz. It is more important that you understand what the musicians were doing as they performed than the definition of each term. Remember, in many cases, the artists tried something new first, and then the term was added to describe what they were doing. In other words, the practice came first, then the definition of the practice came later. Participate on the discussion board about what you learned in the reading (or what confused you).

LEARNING MODULE 2: Monday, July 12: Read Chapters 3 and 4, pp.43-83. Important topics to remember will include the roots of Jazz and the importance of New Orleans in the development of jazz. Quiz 1 will be due by Sunday, July 18 at 11:59 p.m. for full credit.

LEARNING MODULE 3: Monday, July 19: Read Chapters 5 and 6, pp. 85-128. Topics include dance bands/symphonic jazz, and important early soloists including Louis Armstrong. Quiz 2 will be due by Sunday, July 25, at 11:59 p.m. for full credit.

LEARNING MODULE 4: Monday, July 26: Read Chapters 7 and 8, pp.130-183. Topics include the Swing Era, and important bandleaders like Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

LEARNING MODULE 5: Monday, August 2: Read Chapters 9 and 10, pp.185-225. Important topics include famous soloists of the period, and the importance of rhythms in jazz. Quiz 3 will be due by Sunday, August 8, at 11:59 p.m. for full credit.

LEARNING MODULE 6: Monday, August 9: Read Chapters 11 and 12, pp.226-285. Important topics to remember are Bebop, Cool Jazz, and Hard Bop.

FINAL EXAM AND TERM PAPER: The final exam must be completed by FRIDAY, August 20, at 11:59 p.m. for credit. The 2-page term paper must be submitted by WEDNESDAY, August 18. Topics and directions for the paper will be posted on Canvas the first week of class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to read the text assignments thoroughly and listen to the corresponding musical excerpts to gain a meaningful understanding of the music and artists who created it. Quizzes based on the text readings will constitute 50% of the final grade. The final exam will be 25% of the final grade, with the remaining 25% of the final grade coming from the 2-page paper due the week of August 16. .

**GRADING SCALE:**

A=94-100 A-=90-93 B+=87-89 B=84-86 B-=80-83 C=77-79 C-=74-76 C--=70-73 D=65-69  
F=64-below

**The Mary Baldwin Honor Code applies to this course. Students must present original work in each writing assignment, and be prepared to do his/her own work on the exam. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be referred to the Honor Code Committee.**