

MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE MUS 151 FALL SEMESTER: THE HISTORY OF JAZZ

Independent Study/Internet Course (Canvas), 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 will be completed by the end of each day given below. Discussions and video activities will be included on Canvas.

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: DeVaux, Scott and Gary Giddins, Jazz, 2ns 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 Fall Term starts. The ISBN number is 978-0-393-93706-0.

CLASS CALENDAR: Assignments Due

LEARNING MODULE 1: August 31, 2020: 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.

LEARNING MODULE 2: September 7: Read Chapter 3, pp.43-59. Important topics to remember will include the roots of Jazz. We will complete Quiz 1 this week.

LEARNING MODULE 3: September 14: Read Chapter 4, pp. 61-83: Topics include the importance of New Orleans in the development of jazz.

LEARNING MODULE 4: September 21: Read Chapter 5, pp.85-105. Topics include Dance bands/ Symphonic Jazz.

LEARNING MODULE 5: September 28: Read Chapter 6, pp.107-128. Topics include Louis Armstrong and other important early jazz soloists. After our activities today we will prepare to complete Quiz 2 on Canvas. All questions may be answered using the text, with special attention to the essay.

LEARNING MODULE 6: October 5: Read Chapter 7, pp.130-155. Important topics to remember will include the Swing Era. Research topics are also due this week. You may email me your choice of jazz artist and 3 sources you have found.

LEARNING MODULE 7: October 12: Read Chapter 8, pp.157-183. Important topics include Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

LEARNING MODULE 8: October 19: Read Chapters 9-10, pp.185-225. Important topics include Soloists of the period and the significance of rhythms. We will also complete Quiz 3 in Canvas.

LEARNING MODULE 9: October 26: Read Chapters 11-12, pp. 226-285. Important topics include Bebop, Cool Jazz, and Hard Bop.

LEARNING MODULE 10: November 2: Read Chapters 13 and 14, pp. 284-335. Topics include jazz in the 1950's, Miles Davis and Johnny Coltrane. We will complete Quiz 4 on Canvas.

LEARNING MODULE 11: November 9: Read Chapter 15, pp.338-364. Topics include the Avant-Garde, Fusion, and Historicism.

LEARNING MODULE 12: November 16: Papers on your choice of jazz artist are due this week.

LEARNING MODULE 13: November 30: Final exams are due by Friday, December 4.

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. Assignments based on the text readings will constitute 40% of the final grade. Participation in the discussions will be 10% of the final grade, The remaining 50% of the final grade will come from the 3-page paper on a chosen jazz artist (25%), and a final exam (25%).

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.

Accessibility Services: Any student with documented accessibility needs who feels they may need academic accommodations while taking this course, should first contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost (cusher@marybaldwin.edu, 540-887-7064) or Accessibility@marybaldwin.edu.

The Academic Resource Center: The ARC is your one-stop-shop for writing, math, and all other subject and studentship tutoring. Residential students can meet with tutors virtually or face-to-face in the Center for Student Success, on the first floor of Grafton Library. Online and remote students can work virtually with tutors on papers, assignments, and test-taking strategies. Appointments are scheduled through TutorTrac (tutortrac.marybaldwin.edu). For more information, contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost (cusher@marybaldwin.edu, 540-887-7064) or ARC@marybaldwin.edu.