

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY SPRING SEMESTER: THE HISTORY OF JAZZ

MUS151WASP2021: 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 week 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: DeVeaux, 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 spring term starts. The ISBN number is 978-0-393-93706-0.

CLASS CALENDAR: Assignments Due

LEARNING MODULE 1: Week of January 11, 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.

LEARNING MODULE 2: Week of January 18, 2021: Read Chapter 3, pp.43-59. Important topics to remember will include the roots of Jazz. **Quiz 1 must be submitted by Thursday, January 21, 11:59 pm for full credit.** All questions may be answered using the text, with special attention to the essay.

LEARNING MODULE 3: Week of January 25, 2021: Read Chapter 4, pp. 61-83: Topics include

the importance of New Orleans in the development of jazz.

LEARNING MODULE 4: Week of February 1, 2021: Read Chapter 5, pp.85-105. Topics include Dance bands/ Symphonic Jazz.

LEARNING MODULE 5: Week of February 8, 2021: Read Chapter 6, pp.107-128. Topics include Louis Armstrong and other important early jazz soloists. **Quiz 2 must be submitted by Sunday, February 14, 11:59 pm for full credit.** All questions may be answered using the text, with special attention to the essay.

LEARNING MODULE 6: Week of February 15, 2021: Read Chapter 7, pp.130-155. Important topics to remember will include the Swing Era. Research topics are also due this week. **You should email me your choice of jazz artist and 3 sources you have found by the end of this weekend, Sunday, February 21.**

LEARNING MODULE 7: Week of February 22, 2021: Read Chapter 8, pp.157-183. Important topics include Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

LEARNING MODULE 8: Week of March 1: Read Chapters 9-10, pp.185-225. Important topics include Soloists of the period and the significance of rhythms. **Quiz 3 must be submitted by Sunday, March 7, 2021, 11:59 pm for full credit.** All questions may be answered using the text, with special attention to the essay.

---- SPRING BREAK---

LEARNING MODULE 9: Week of March 15, 2021: Read Chapters 11-12, pp. 226-285. Important topics include Bebop, Cool Jazz, and Hard Bop.

LEARNING MODULE 10: Week of March 22, 2021: Read Chapters 13 and 14, pp. 284-335. Topics include jazz in the 1950's, Miles Davis and Johnny Coltrane. **Quiz 4 must be submitted by Sunday, March 28, 11:59 pm for full credit.**

LEARNING MODULE 11: Week of March 29, 2021: Finish research for term paper and prepare document (rough draft). **Final Paper is due by Sunday, April 25, 11:59 pm.**

LEARNING MODULE 12: Week of April 5, 2021: Read Chapter 15, pp.338-364. Topics include the Avant-Garde, Fusion, and Historicism.

LEARNING MODULE 13: Week of April 12, 2021: **Quiz 5 must be submitted by Sunday, April 18, 2021, 11:59pm for full credit.**

LEARNING MODULE 14: Week of April 19, 2021: **Complete paper and turn in by Sunday, April 25.**

FINAL EXAM: **Final must be submitted by Tuesday, May 4, 2021.**

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.