MUSIC 1310.01W: Jazz History-New Orleans to Jazz Rock

(An eCollege Course)

Dr. Todd Goranson, Instructor

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Summer I 2012

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Course Policies and Procedures

Course Objectives

This course will introduce students to stylistic elements, landmark recordings, and major innovators and figures of jazz. All students will become familiar with the cultural factors that led to the development of jazz in the United States, including the influences of West African, European, and Latin American cultures. Students will gain insight into the diverse roots of the music, learn distinguishing characteristics of the many styles within the jazz “umbrella”, and become familiar with key persons, innovations, and geographical locations pertinent to genres from pre-jazz styles through the development of jazz/rock. In order to learn this material, students will use the required text and cds, as well as view and respond to (via eCollege-based discussion forums) multimedia presentations, archival video and audio footage, and online lectures presentations. Instruction and exams for the course will be administered online via eCollege.

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the subject material by responding to discussion/forum questions, completing assigned quizzes, and completing five unit exams during the course of the semester. These exams will include multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short response questions. Each unit exam will also include questions in response to provided listening examples.

Students will note that the discussion assignments receive significant weight in the grading scale for this course. This is because one of the primary objectives of this class is to be a departure point for discussion of jazz, musical styles, and cultural issues related to the course topic. It will be important for each student to express their views with college-level writing skills and avoid the "short-hand" writing that we often use when text messaging or "IM-ing" online. The grade for the discussion threads will be listed in the online gradebook under the "Discussion" heading.
The participation grade for this course is based on whether or not the lecture outlines, audio and video materials have been viewed by the student. (eCollege keeps a log for the instructor which shows how many minutes were spent on each area, and breaks it down day by day.) If some portions were not viewed during the assigned week, a partial grade will be assigned accordingly. This participation grade for viewing the lecture and supplemental video and audio recordings can be found in the gradebook under "Participation/Viewing Online Materials".

In short, the instructional materials, including lectures, videos, and discussion threads are available "on demand" to give the student maximum schedule flexibility. The summer version of this course covers the same material as the fall or spring semester course; however, because this material is all covered in one month, the student will find that a significant amount of time will be required each week to stay on top of the course material.

The student will be responsible for completing two "Segments" of the course each week. Segments 1 and 2 will be completed during week one, Segment 3 and 4 during week two, etc. Each week will begin at 12:01 am Monday morning and end at midnight of the following Sunday night. The final, abbreviated week (the last day is July 8th) will contain the ninth and final Segment, including a final, non-cumulative exam. For purposes of review, the previous lecture outlines and video will be available even after the week has ended, though other content may not. Assignments and lectures can be viewed and completed day or night during the respective class week until the due date, so one can pace their learning and schedule their time to fit their busy schedules. Quizzes and exams are up to be available over a period of seven days and to give students. Each quiz and exam will have the maximum time for completion clearly stated before the student begins, and each must be completed within the allotted time in one sitting (i.e. you may not begin an exam or quiz then re-enter it later to complete it.)

Course Overview

Unit I: The Birth of Jazz through the Blues (Chapters 1-2)

Topics will include:

Understanding Jazz, African music, the music of the Slavery and Post-Emancipation Period, the Blues, and Ragtime. These topics will be covered in Segment 1 and 2 of the online course.

Unit II: The Popularization of Jazz (Chapters 3-4)

Topics will include:

The music of New Orleans and Chicago in the 1920’s. These topics will be covered in Segment 3 and 4 of the online course.

Unit III: Swing (Chapters 5-6)
Topics will include:

The New York City and Kansas City jazz scenes in the 1930’s, Swing, and the Big Bands. These topics will be covered in Segment 5 and 6 of the online course.

Unit IV: Bop and Post-Bop (Chapters 7-8)

Topics will include:

The evolution of Bop, Cool Jazz, Hard Bop, and Third Stream. These topics will be covered in Segment 7 and 8 of the online course.

Unit V: Experimental Jazz through Current Trends (Chapters 9-10)

Topics will include:

The development of Free Jazz, Jazz (Rock) Fusion, and current trends in Jazz. These topics will be covered in Segment 9 of the online course.

Attendance Policy

The student does not have a specific time for which they will report for class. All assignments and lecture material are based on the specified weekly format (Monday 12:01 AM until Sunday night at midnight) unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Failure to submit assignments by the deadline will result in no credit being given. Exceptions will be made only by discretion of the instructor, and only in the event of documented illness, documented emergency, or pre-excused approved university activities. It is recommended that students check their email at least every 24 hours, as this will be a primary means of communication between students and the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to have a computer at their disposal in order to complete course content in a timely manner. In the event that a student has problems with their own computer, it is their responsibility to find an alternate computer (on-campus or off-campus) and complete the course material on time. Because one cannot always anticipate computer issues, please do not wait until the last moment to submit assignments and exams. There are many on-campus computers that are available for student use.

Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Students with a disability requiring one or more accommodations must provide a letter to the instructor from the Office of Disability Resources and Services PRIOR to receiving any
accommodations. Many accommodations take time to arrange, and retroactive accommodations are not made; therefore, students are encouraged to self-identify with the DSR office as early as possible. If you need accommodations, you should first come by the office which is located in the Halladay Student Services Building—room 303 D; phone Ms. Josie Davis-George at (903) 886-5835; or e-mail Ms. Davis-George at Josie_Davis-George@TAMU-Commerce.edu.

Textbook & Required CDs

There are only two required items for this course: 1 textbook and one set of 2 CDs.


Required: History and Tradition of Jazz Compact Discs (2 CDs)

The student must also have access to a computer that has both internet access and the ability to view audio/video files.

Grading Policy

Graded Materials

10% Unit I Test
15% Unit II Test
15% Unit III Test
15% Unit IV Test
15% Unit V Test
10% On-time Viewing of Assigned Online Content
10% On-time Completion of Written Responses ("Discussion")
10% Quizzes

Grading Criteria

Because this is an online course, the responsibility to complete the course content on time is placed firmly on the student. With regard to receiving credit for viewing the online content, it is important to note that eCollege logs the time and date that you view content areas in the course. In other words, I will grade each of you on weekly basis as to whether or not you have viewed the assigned lecture outlines (including embedded audio) and video content.

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F Below 60