



School of Music, Plainview, TX

University Mission

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

Course Number and Name

MUSI 3306 VC01 – History of Jazz

Term

Fall 2, 2022

Instructor

Dr. Scott Strovas

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Email: scott.strovas@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location

Virtual office hours by appointment.

Course Meeting Time & Location

This class is fully online and asynchronous. Synchronous meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the learners and instructor of the course.

MUSI 3306 Catalog Description

Examines the stylistic development of jazz through study of its seminal recordings and performances, with consideration of the historical, cultural, and biographical factors which shaped jazz practice.

Prerequisites

N/A

Required Textbook and Resource Materials

Note: There is no textbook to acquire, but please ensure that you have access to quality speakers or earbuds. *You will be listening to jazz in this class!*

Optional Materials

The *Ken Burns Jazz* docuseries provides a captivating introduction to jazz and is available through PBS and Amazon Prime streaming services; I highly recommend it for an expanded learning experience during and beyond this course.

Course Outcome Competencies – What You Learn in this Class!

Students completing History of Jazz successfully will be able to engage jazz music through the following critical methodologies:

- 1) an ability to listen actively and identify characteristic of jazz performance related to different style periods, subgenres, and artists;
- 2) consideration of the historical, cultural, political, and economic circumstances that shaped jazz musical creation, performance, and dissemination;
- 3) analysis of source materials, including recordings, texts, oral histories, and images, which inform jazz historiography;
- 4) biographical consideration of the jazz's central figures.

Attendance Requirements

Successful professionals in any career are dependable; they complete tasks on schedule and communicate effectively to colleagues.

Likewise, this online course operates on a “module” basis, requiring the completion of most course requirements within specified time frames. While this course is asynchronous, meaning there will not be a standard meeting time, the class will still progress as a guided unit through the material.

“Attendance” is determined by the student’s accessing of Blackboard, viewing of online lectures, and completion of assignments by the specified dates. Logging on to the class Blackboard site fewer than 2-3 times per week likely will prove detrimental to the learner’s overall performance.

Important: Life happens. Contact me if you cannot meet the deadline for one or more assignments in a given week. *I am more than happy to work with you if and when you need extra time!*

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

Disability Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Grade Distribution:

- **Listening Charts and Writing Assignments (30%):** you’ll respond to brief reflection assignments and short research prompts, and you’ll build listening charts in which you practice recognizing and articulating the events of a jazz performance
- **Online Quizzes (25%):** quizzes allow multiple attempts and are designed as a formative tool for you to determine strengths and weaknesses in your understanding of the lecture material

- **Midterm Assessment (20%):** consists of a single listening identification exam
- **Final Assessment (25%):** consists of written response and listening assessments

Grade Representation in American Film Music:

A: Outstanding Achievement (90 – 100%): Individuals who earn an A exhibit a clear desire to improve skillsets, embrace academic challenges willingly, and grow personally through purposeful engagement with the course material.

B: Above Average (80 – 89%): Individuals who earn a B exhibit a clear desire embrace academic challenges consistently, but may not engage all of the course material with purpose.

C: Average (70 -79%): Individuals who earn a C engage the course material minimally without considering fully its relevance to their professional and personal growth.

D: Below Average (60 – 69%): Individuals who earn a D engage the course material minimally and ignore its relevance to their professional and personal growth.

F: Not acceptable (59% and below): Individuals who earn an F fail to engage the course material ignore its relevance to their professional and personal growth.

University Statement on Capricious Evaluation

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

School of Creative Arts 70% Rule:

Course grades below C, or 70%, will not count toward the fulfillment of requirements of majors housed in the School of Creative Arts. A D (60-69%) is necessary to earn credit toward all other degrees.

Course Content Advisory

Art imitates and embellishes life. The critical examination of any aspect of culture is not an endorsement of content that individuals may find offensive. The music, readings, images and videos which this course examines are selected primarily because of their contribution to the historical narrative of jazz. Where possible, discretion is used to limit engagement with potentially objectionable material in class, but the instructor cannot guarantee that students will not encounter subject matter which they may find offensive.

Inspirational Quote

The first thing that college is for is to teach you to think. That doesn't simply mean developing the mental skills particular to individual disciplines. . . . It is only through the act of establishing communication between the mind and the heart, the mind and experience, that you become an individual, a unique being—a soul. The job of college is to assist you to begin to do that.

-William Deresiewicz, former Yale University Professor of English, 2014

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction: Anatomy of a Jazz Performance

Week 2 – Marches, Ragtime, and Early Jazz

Week 3 – Roaring through the 20s: Armstrong, Ellington, and the Transition to Swing

Week 4 – Big Band Swing and Midterm Assessment

Week 5 – Bebop, Hard Bop, and Straight-Ahead Jazz

Week 6 – Simmer Down: Cool Jazz During the Cold War

Week 7 – Avant-Garde Jazz, Fusion, and the Civil Rights Era

Week 8 – Contemporary Jazz and Final Assessment