



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

Spring 2, 2022

Instructor

Dr. Scott Strovas

Office phone: (806) 291-1062

Email: scott.strovas@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location

Virtual office hours TBD and by appointment.

Course Meeting Time & Location

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

MUSI 3306 Catalog Description

Survey of Jazz History: its origin, its development, and its first 100 years; focuses principally on the stylistic development of jazz and its most important artists; relates the music to relevant aspects of social and intellectual history, including the Harlem Renaissance, the status of women in jazz, racism, the countercultural revolutions of the 1960s, and the contributions of Latino culture.

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. Highly recommended for an expanded learning experience during and beyond this course.

Course Outcome Competencies

Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively involved in learning will be able to engage jazz music and history through the following critical methodologies:

- 1) active listening and an ability to identify priorities of jazz performance practice jazz 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. University policy states that learners who miss more 25% of any course may receive an “F.” In our online term, that amounts to two weeks of material.

Important: logging on to the class Blackboard site fewer than 2-3 times per week likely will prove detrimental to the learner’s overall performance, as will failure to submit more than 3 assignments over the course of the term.

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%):** the ability to recognize and articulate the events of a jazz performance is a primary learning outcome of this course, and writing assignments will provide you opportunities to engage in deeper conversation about jazz's place in American culture
- **Online Quizzes (25%):** quizzes allow multiple attempts and are designed as a 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 Portfolio (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 get better: to improve skillsets, embrace academic challenges willingly, and grow personally through purposeful engagement with the course material. Characteristics include diligent effort, a significantly high degree of intellectual autonomy and perseverance, and high achievement in all areas of the course, demonstrated by clear, precise, timely, accurate work.
- B: Above Average (80 – 89%): Individuals who earn a B exhibit a clear desire to get better: to improve skillsets, embrace academic challenges willingly, and grow personally through purposeful engagement with the course material. Characteristics include persistent effort, a high degree of intellectual autonomy and perseverance, and achievement in multiple areas of the course, demonstrated by clear, precise, timely, accurate work.
- 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. Characteristics include inconsistent effort, some degree of intellectual autonomy, and achievement in some areas of the course, demonstrated by imprecise work.
- 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:

No course grades below C or 70% will count in the major degree programs in the School of Creative Arts. If a student earns grades below 70% in any course required in the major, the student will be required to repeat that course until they receive 70% or higher.

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: Listening to Jazz
- Week 2 – Marches, Ragtime, and Early Jazz
- Week 3 – Armstrong, Ellington, and the Transition to Swing
- Week 4 – Big Band Swing
- Week 5 – Bebop and the Post-Bop Era
- Week 6 – Avant-Garde and Fusion Jazz
- Week 7 – Contemporary Jazz
- Week 8 – Culminating Projects and Assessment