

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus
MUSI 3663 Jazz History and Styles

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: Junior standing and ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors
Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the evolution of jazz from its inception to the present, as well as the importance of this art form within American culture. Includes an overview of basic music elements and concepts indigenous to jazz. Focuses on the major styles and artists from 1900 to the present.

B. Additional Information

This course is available to upper level music majors seeking either a Bachelor of Arts in Music or Bachelor of Music Education degree.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Trace the history of the various genres of jazz.
2. Discuss the musical, aesthetic, moral, and social issues related to the periods of jazz history, major composers and performers and important jazz compositions and recordings.
3. Listen to and aurally identify the various jazz genres, performers and bands throughout jazz history.
4. Demonstrate through discussion and writing a knowledge of the various jazz artists and bands/combos that shaped jazz history.
5. Listen to, aurally recognize, discuss and write about the musical elements intrinsic to the various jazz styles.
6. Demonstrate through discussion and writing a knowledge of jazz terminology.

B. University Learning Outcomes

MUSI 3663 Jazz History and Styles enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of musical performance.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of a musical performance.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes whether in musical research, presentation, or performance.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The musical elements of jazz
- B. Jazz styles
- C. Jazz precursors
- D. Historical periods
- E. Major jazz artists
- F. Social and moral issues surrounding jazz
- G. Significant recordings