

American Jazz & Popular Music

Spring 2012 – GCC North Campus, MHL 145 Class #16874

Meeting Time & Location, North Campus

Tues, Thurs – 10am to 11:15am
Room A117

Instructor & Contact Info

INSTRUCTOR: Adam Roberts
OFFICE: GCC MU1 108 (Adjunct Faculty Office) by appointment only
BEST EMAIL: adamrobertsmusic@cox.net
OPTIONAL EMAIL: adam.roberts@gmail.maricopa.edu

Course Textbook

Jazz: Essential Listening by Scott Deveaux and Gary Giddins

Course Website

Course files including Powerpoint Lectures, Study Guides, and Course Handouts will be available at this site:
www.AdamRobertsMusic.com

Course Description

The study of cultural and social contributions to the evolution of American Jazz and popular music from the mid-1800's to present.

Course Outline

- ♪ A Musical Orientation (chapters 1 & 2)
- ♪ New Orleans & Dixieland
- ♪ Early Jazz in Chicago & Harlem
- ♪ The Swing Era: Jazz as Popular Music
- ♪ The Bebop Era: Jazz as High Art
- ♪ 50's Jazz Sub-styles: Cool Bop & Hard Bop, Miles Davis
- ♪ 60's Jazz: The Avant-Garde, John Coltrane
- ♪ 70's Jazz: Fusion
- ♪ 80's to Present – Modern Jazz Trends

Evaluation/Grading

This course is evaluated out of 400 points, broken down as follows:

- ♪ 4 Quizzes: In-Class & Take-Home (25pts each, 100pts total)
- ♪ Midterm Exam – 100pts
- ♪ 2 Concert Reaction Papers – 100pts (50pts each)
- ♪ Final Exam – 100pts
- ♪ **Optional Extra Credit:** Students may submit a 2-page review of a recording by any artist covered in class for a 25 point bonus.

Make-up Work & Exams

Late assignments are penalized 20% and must be received by the following class. They will not be accepted after that. Tests will not be made up without prior arrangements.

If a due date is missed for a school-sanctioned event, that paperwork must be provided before the absence to waive penalties or receive an alternate testing time.

In the event of an emergency medical situation, provide a doctor's excuse and, at the instructor's discretion, you may be granted an extension without penalty or a chance to make up a test or quiz.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. If a student acquires 6 unexcused absences, they will be automatically dropped from the course.

Academic Honesty

In the event of cheating, plagiarism or "shared work", the assignment will receive no credit. In extreme cases, the instructor reserves the right to assign a final grade of "F" for the course.

Disability Statement

If you have a disability that may have an impact on your work or may require special accommodations, you must contact Disability Services & Resources Office to make arrangements. (623) 845-3080

Course Calendar

1/17 – The course begins
2/27 – Last day to drop without instructor approval/signature
3/13 & 3/15 – Spring Break, no class
5/8 – Finals week, class does not meet on Tuesday
5/10 – Final Exam, during regular class time

Disclaimer

Course content may be adjusted to meet the needs of this group.

Jazz History Concert Reactions

Over the course of the semester, students are expected to attend at least 2 concerts in the jazz genre and report on the experience. As a wide variety of music can be called jazz, please check that your show counts.

Expectations

- ♪ 2 pages or more
- ♪ Times New Roman 12pt font, double spaced
- ♪ Include the names of the performers, band, venue and date
- ♪ A concert program or a signature of the band leader on your notes

Discuss the Following (you can add more if needed/desired)

- ♪ Titles of the tunes
- ♪ Instrumentation
- ♪ Styles performed (Latin, swing, funk, fusion...etc.)
- ♪ Improvisation style (inside, outside, vertical, horizontal, or other descriptive terms)
- ♪ Moods of the pieces
- ♪ Atmosphere of the venue
- ♪ Nature of the communication between players (musical and verbal)
- ♪ Audience reactions
- ♪ Techniques used during the performance (breaks, stop time, trading 4s...etc.)
- ♪ Personal opinions/reactions to the material (likes, dislikes...etc.)

Some Suggested Performance Venues

- ♪ The GCC Concert Series (dates will be announced in class)
- ♪ Kazimierz (Mondays & Thursdays, must be 21)
- ♪ The Rhythm Room
- ♪ Next Coffee (holds jam sessions varying nights of the week)
- ♪ Kerr Cultural Center
- ♪ Mesa Arts Center or Scottsdale Center for the Arts
- ♪ The Compound Grill (occasional jazz shows...check their calendar)
- ♪ Bobby C's
- ♪ Skye

Specific shows will be announced in class as they are scheduled. You can find dates and times for many jazz performances on-line at www.JazzInAZ.org under their Newsletter tab.

Due Dates

March 8th – Review 1

May 3rd – Review 2 (if you attend GCC's final concert you may submit it on the day of the final, May 10th)