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Semester Effective: Spring 2015

Music (MUSC) 1520 History of American Jazz (3 Units) CSU:UC

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course provides a survey of the history and appreciation of American jazz in a historical-cultural perspective. Primarily intended for non-music majors. Concert attendance is required.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Gridley, Mark. *Concise Guide to Jazz Plus MySearchLab with eText- Access Card Package*. 7th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2013. Print.

Additional Required Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. understand and appreciate jazz as an American artform,
2. explain the history and popularity of jazz,
3. recognize different styles of jazz, and
4. apply their knowledge and listening skills in a concert setting

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Overview of Jazz

- A. Defining jazz in terms of styles and techniques
- B. Exploring the use of improvisation in the genre
- C. Identify different styles of jazz including Dixieland, Swing, Bebop, and Cool

Unit II Historical Origins and Influences

- A. Examine early beginnings of the movement
- B. Understand how each style changed jazz
- C. Recognize the different tones found in various influences
- D. Trace the evolution of brass bands and Ragtime

Unit III Early Jazz Period

- A. Listen to string bands

- B. Understand syncopation and how it develops unique styles
- C. Explore rhythms and find them in various jazz techniques
- D. Listen to and compare March Music and Ragtime

Unit IV Swing Era

- A. Listen to vocal blues to identify vocal techniques used in them
- B. Find “ornaments of pitch” commonly used in jazz
- C. Identify and compare tone qualities between different sizes of jazz groups
- D. Explore use of instruments and sounds found in Swing Bands

Unit V Cool Jazz Style

- A. Research the origins of Cool Jazz
- B. Listen to and compare masters of the style
 - 1. Dave Brubeck
 - 2. Stan Kenton
 - 3. Gerry Mulligan

Unit VI Avant Garde Jazz- The Latest Styles

- A. Explore techniques found in modern Jazz
 - 1. Examine the elements of free form
 - 2. Identify “difficult chords”
 - 3. Listen for tempo changes
 - 4. Discuss how amplification and electronic instruments contribute to Jazz
- B. Distinguish between types of Modern Jazz
 - 1. Learn the elements of Jazz/Rock
 - 2. Explain the styles and techniques used in Fusion

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Listening to assigned passages of music
- 2. Completing required reading
- 3. Doing written evaluations and critiques
- 4. Attending a concert

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Lectures and class discussion
- 2. Demonstrations and visual aids
- 3. CD or DVD recordings of performances
- 4. Multi-media presentations

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1. Written assignments including
 - a. written homework from chapters
 - b. essays developed around topics from Jazz

- c. learning reflection about concert experience
- 2. Summative Evaluations
 - a. listening quizzes
 - b. end-of-chapter quizzes
 - c. examinations