

Course Outline for: MUSC 1123 Jazz History**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #6 – Humanities and the Fine Arts
Goal #7 - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Created and developed by African-American musicians in New Orleans at the turn of the 20th century, jazz is a uniquely American art form that, like its modern cousin hip-hop, has become beloved worldwide. Explore the lives and recordings of the many musicians who worked to create and evolve the music by tracing the historical development of jazz music from pre-Civil war through current styles and trends. Influences on the artists and their music are examined from social and political pressures to developments in music technology and performance. Emphasis is placed on developing context for a historical knowledge base as well as informed and perceptive listening skills through detailed analysis of recorded examples of jazz.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: February 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Explore and investigate the development of jazz music from pre-Civil War era through current trends of today
2. Develop an aural and historical perspective of styles, eras, and performers of jazz music
3. Develop intelligent and perceptive listening skills
4. Acquaintance of successful examples of jazz performances, combined with close analysis to determine the reasons for their success
5. Develop skills in expressing ideas and important factual information about jazz, using clear and logical language, both verbally and in writing

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Aurally distinguish historical styles and principal musical characteristics of all documented periods of jazz history. (Goal 2b, 6b)
2. Verbally and in writing discuss personal reaction to jazz using knowledge of basic rhythmic and/or melodic patterns and general form or structure. (Goal 2d, 6c, 6e)
3. Understand how the development of 19th century African-American music reflects the changing group identities in the United States. (Goal 2a, 2c, 6b, 7Aa)
4. Consider your personal beliefs regarding the circumstances of the shift from Ragtime to Jazz in its early inception in New Orleans. (Goal 2a, 2c, 6e, 7Ac)

5. Identify the experiences and contributions of African-Americans that resulted from the exodus from New Orleans and the migration north to Kansas City, Chicago, and New York City, from a musical, social, economic and political perspective. (Goal 2a, 2d, 6b, 7Ad)
6. Identify the influence of jazz on other genres of music. (Goal 2a, 2d, 6a)
7. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions of the many jazz artists and groups that shaped American society and culture; in particular those that suffered discrimination and exclusion. (Goal 2d, 6b, 7Ad)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Written and aural assignments
2. Written and aural exams
3. Guided listening and discussion
4. Personal reflection
5. Written response to live performance

F. Special Information:

None