

Virginia Community College Course Content Summary

Course Title: MUS 225: History of Jazz

Course Description

Studies the underlying elements of jazz, concentrating on the socio-cultural and historical development from earliest stages to the present. Explores key figures and significant works instrumental in the development and evolution of jazz. Lecture 3 hours. 3 credits.

General Course Purpose

Increase knowledge of the world of jazz by examining its history, the socio-cultural context of its development, key artists and performances.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Communication

- Effectively communicate music observations through written and/or oral communication

Civic Engagement

- Identify values that diverse cultures and life experiences bring to society through the world of jazz to promote civic engagement

Cultural and Social Understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of music in different socio-cultural contexts
- Identify historical factors that influence the evolution of music within a culture
- Recognize/describe how aesthetics vary from one social group/culture to another
- Identify commonalities and value differences between social groups

Personal Development

- Augment listening skills through ear training exercises and listening quizzes
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of the world of jazz
- Cultivate personal goals related to music listening, participation, or performance attendance

Fundamentals of Music and Jazz Foundations

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic elements of music
- Identify octaves, diatonic and chromatic scales, clefs
- Locate notes on a keyboard
- Identify "the pickup"

Essential Features of Jazz and the Blues

- Recognize the significance of improvisation
- Identify syncopation and polyrhythms
- Understand the influence of swing
- Recognize musical characteristics of the blues and the influence of pitch bending
- Identify basic Blues chord progressions

Basic features and origins of jazz

- Recognize standard forms and the bridge
- Identify jazz instruments
- Describe the influence of African American traditions on jazz
- Describe the influence of New Orleans brass bands
- Describe the influence of call and response on jazz performance

Early jazz through the 30s

- Identify the influence of New Orleans Jazz and the musicians who shaped it
- Describe how Chicago influenced the recording of jazz
- Identify characteristics of scat singing
- Recognize musical characteristics of New York Jazz and Harlem stride piano
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Fletcher Henderson, Django Reinhardt, Art Tatum, Duke Ellington, and Billy Strayhorn

Swing in Chicago, New York and Kansas City

- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald

Advent of Modern Jazz

- Recognize musical characteristics of Bebop and bop piano style
- Identify components of Afro-Cuban jazz
- Recognize instruments within jazz big bands
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk and Sarah Vaughan

Cool Jazz

- Recognize musical characteristics of cool jazz
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Miles Davis, Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, Stan Getz, and the Modern Jazz Quartet

Hard bop

- Identify musical characteristics of hard bop
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Art Blakey, Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis

Key figures in the late 50s and early 60s

- Recognize important contributions of key figures, such as Miles Davis, Bill Evans and John Coltrane
- Identify the components and purpose of modal jazz

Avant-garde and Free Jazz Musicians

- Explain the movement toward free jazz
- Recognize the musical characteristics of free jazz
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Ornette Coleman and Charlie Mignus

Jazz Fusion

- Recognize the musical characteristics of jazz fusion
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett

Modernism, Postmodernism and Neo-classicism in Jazz

- Recognize the musical characteristics of modernism, postmodernism and neo-classicism in jazz
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Anthony Braxton, the Art Ensemble of Chicago and Wynton Marsalis

Latin Jazz, Globalization of Jazz and other Recent Trends

- Recognize the musical characteristics of Latin Jazz and key figures, such as Tito Puente
- Identify the musical characteristics of Afro-Cuban Jazz
- Recall important contributions of key figures, such as Arturo Sandoval, Branford Marsalis, Diana Krall, and Medeski, Martin & Wood

Major Topics to be Included

Personal Development

Fundamentals of Music and Jazz Foundations

Essential Features of Jazz and the Blues

Basic features and origins of jazz

Early jazz through the 30s

Swing in Chicago, New York and Kansas City

Advent of Modern Jazz

Cool Jazz

Hard bop

Key figures in the late 50s and early 60s

Course Prefix and Number _____ (To be assigned by the VCCS)

Avant-garde and Free Jazz Musicians

Jazz Fusion

Modernism, Postmodernism and Neo-classicism in Jazz

Latin Jazz, Globalization of Jazz and other Recent Trends

(To be completed by VCCS) Course Approved: Month _____ Year _____