

Jazz History, MATC (805-263-601); Spring, 2005

## **Syllabus**

### **Instructor**

Joe Harris  
(608) 441-0017  
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### **Office hours**

MATC Downtown, Room D413  
Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30am  
Other times by appointment.

### **Class times and locations**

January 12–May 11, 2005 (no class Wednesday, March 23)  
Wednesdays: 3:30–5:20pm  
MATC Downtown campus (DTEC) Room D436, and remote locations

### **Required text**

Simon Adams. *Jazz: A Crash Course*. New York: Watson-Guption Publication (1999).  
ISBN: 0-8230-0979-3.

### **Required supplies**

- blank paper (loose leaf, or spiral-bound notebook)
- writing implement (pen or pencil)

### **Optional supplies**

- folder or binder

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required for this course. You are allowed one unexcused absence; for each unexcused absence above one, two percentage points will be deducted from your final grade. Excused absences must be proven with documentation (e.g., note from doctor, letter from coach, copy of coroner's report).

According to MATC guidelines, if a student is absent from class for 25% of class meetings, the instructor may withdraw the student from the course. Since this class meets 16 times, students with 4 or more absences (excused or unexcused) may be dropped from the course.

### **Grading for this course**

quizzes/assignments	40%
research paper (musician interview)	20%
mid-term exam	20%
final exam	20%

### **Grading breakdown**

A	96–100
AB	91–95
B	86–90
BC	81–85
C	76–80
D	71–75
F	70 or below

## Assignments

Most assignments will comprise guided questions based on readings from the textbook.

Assignment pages will be handed out during class. Assignment pages will also be posted on the Internet (URL to be announced later).

If you miss a class, you are responsible for going to the Internet, checking for new assignments, printing any assignments you might have missed, completing the assignments, and bringing those completed assignments with you the next time you come to class. If you return to class without the completed assignments, you will not have an opportunity to hand in those assignments later.

If you lose an assignment page before completing the assignment, you may go the Internet and print out a new copy of the assignment page.

## Course description

Classroom lecture course designed to introduce students to the recordings, history, major figures, musical forms and social importance of this original American art form. Includes live demonstrations, videos, guided-listening experiences, and group discussions. Out-of-class responsibilities primarily include reading and listening. Historical periods and jazz-related styles to be covered include ragtime, blues, traditional New Orleans jazz, big band swing, boogie-woogie, bop, cool, progressive, rhythm and blues, jazz/rock, and contemporary fusion and funk styles.

## Course schedule (tentative)

Wednesday, January 12	introduction, beginning terms, instruments, blues (pages 1–11)
Wednesday, January 19	early jazz (pages 12–23)
Wednesday, January 26	the roaring 20s (pages 24–37)
Wednesday, February 2	big band, the swing era (pages 38–45)
Wednesday, February 9	pre-bop superstars (pages 46–55)
Wednesday, February 16	bebop (pages 56–67)
Wednesday, February 23	review for Mid-Term Exam
Wednesday, March 2	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Wednesday, March 9	cool jazz (pages 68–73)
Wednesday, March 16	post-bop superstars (pages 74–87)
Wednesday, March 23	[Spring Break—no class]
Wednesday, March 30	Miles Davis (pages 88–91)
Wednesday, April 6	experimentation (pages 92–104)
Wednesday, April 13	cool jazz in the 1960s (pages 105–113)
Wednesday, April 20	electric jazz (pages 114–125)
Wednesday, April 27	contemporary jazz (pages 126–137)
Wednesday, May 4	review for Final Exam
week of May 9–13	<b>Final Exam</b>