

Course Syllabus

Course Information

MUSI 1306.0w2 Understanding Music: Jazz Appreciation

Fall semester, 2024

Class time: MW 11:30 – 12:45

Class location: none – synchronous online only

Professor Contact Information

Instructor: Kelly P. Durbin

Office: JO 1.208

Phone: 972-883-2723

Office Hrs.: MWF 9:00-9:45 a.m. by appt. only

other times available by appt. only

E-mail: kpdurbin@utdallas.edu

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None required.

Course Description

The purpose of this class will be twofold:

1. To study an overview history of jazz music and the players and major developments.
2. To gain an understanding and appreciation of jazz and jazz improvisation by becoming better jazz listeners.

Some of the topics covered in the class will include:

- Jazz music and jazz musicians in an historical context.
 - Listening to and identifying elements of jazz, such as improvisation, song forms, instruments and instrumental techniques, swing feeling, and differentiating between jazz styles.
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Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Students will examine the developments of jazz music from its roots thru modern jazz.
 - Students will identify recordings of jazz artists thru aural examinations.
 - Students will compare and contrast styles of individual jazz musicians and various periods in jazz.
 - Students will observe and evaluate professional jazz performances.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

Text required: Concise Guide to Jazz (7th edition, any format) by Mark Gridley etext

Hard copy: ISBN

Music to accompany your text is available with a Spotify account. The playlist for Gridley's Concise Guide to Jazz is available on Spotify.

Suggested Course Materials

A set of good quality headphones for listening to class. Much of the music is performed live during class or is prerecorded.

Additional musical samples will be made available via eLearning, Spotify, or other web page links.

Academic Calendar

(Due Dates, Exam Dates)

- weekly reading and listening assignments TBA during class
- Test 1 Monday, September 23
- Test 2 Monday, October 28
- Test 3 TBA (Mon., 12/2 OR during Finals week on ??)
- 2 Concert Reports Each report due the 2nd Monday following each weekend concert. Late reports marked down 10 points/week.

Grading Policy

(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)

• Test 1	15%	
• Test 2	15%	
• Test 3	20%	
• 2 Concert Reports (see below)	15%	Due within 10 days of attended concert. Late reports marked down 10 points/week.
• Attendance, quizzes, assignments	25%	
• Extra Credit	5%	extra work to be approved by instructor.

Each of the three tests will consist of two parts - written and listening.

The written portion may consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.

Material for the written portion will come from:

1. Your text readings
2. Class presentations and discussions
3. Videos viewed during class presentations.
4. Supplemental materials

In the listening portion of the tests, you will be required to:

1. identify the piece of music (I will "drop the needle" anywhere in the piece).
2. name the artist(s) performing
3. relay pertinent information you've learned about the piece and/or artist(s).

Material for the listening exams will come from:

1. The Spotify online examples that accompany your text
2. The Ken Burns CDs or other supplemental class listening

Additionally, each student will be required to attend **2 jazz performances** throughout the semester and type a **one to two-page report on each**.

The reports should refer to topics we cover this semester in class on listening to jazz (improvisation, song forms, musician interplay, etc.) More guidance will be provided in class.

UTD Arts and Humanities Jazz Events Page:

<https://www.utdallas.edu/ah/events/index.php?category=Jazz>

Jazz concert series:

Required jazz concerts scheduled on campus this semester include the following:

1. One O'Clock Lab Band

9/27

Edith O'Connell Arts and Technology Bldg. (ATC) 1.102

2. **Branford Marsalis Quartet**
10/13

For each missed required concert, you may substitute 2 other preapproved jazz concerts.

Additional concerts of interest will be announced in class and/or eLearning.
I will be happy to provide you with a list of locations off campus that provide jazz.

No out-of-town concerts permitted without prior instructor approval.

Course & Instructor Policies

(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)

Tests will not be given as make-ups unless prior arrangements are approved. Late arrivals will not be allowed to make-up the missed portion of the test.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. It is the responsibility of each student to know if the dates have changed. Any changes will be announced in class.

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student Accessibility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes. Faculty have the discretion to set an attendance policy for their in-person meetings, but the absences due to COVID-19 cannot be counted against a quarantined student.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.