

**MUSIC 273: JAZZ HISTORY AND APPRECIATION 3 Credits**

Spring 2007  
3:00 – 4:15 MW  
Room 200

Instructor: Jeff Erickson

Office: Room 202 Office phone: 261-6247

Office Hours: MW 9:30 – 10:00, 12:00-12:30; F 10:00 – 11:00, or by appointment

**Text & Course Materials**

**Text:** *Concise Guide to Jazz*, by Mark Gridley (fourth edition)

**CDs:** Classics CD for *Concise Guide to Jazz*

Prentice Hall Jazz Collection CD

Concise Guide Demonstration Compact Disc

**Purpose of the Course & Course Description**

Since this course is cross-listed as both Fine Arts and Ethnic Studies, we will look at the world of jazz from multiple but interrelated perspectives. As a music appreciation course, one of our most important activities will be listening to the rich treasure of recorded jazz and developing our listening skills to heighten our understanding and enjoyment of the music. As a history course, we will study the development and growth of jazz as an art form by focusing our attention on the music's major innovators and stylistic developments. We will also study how the historical aspects of jazz relate to the social, political and racial issues of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the Ethnic Studies discipline.

Class time will be divided into lecture, discussion, listening to music, watching video clips, and an occasional in-class demonstration or performance. In the first few weeks of class we will work on developing your listening skills because they are an important foundation for the whole course.

**Expectations of Students**

Students will be expected to master the course material by attending lectures, reading the text and supplemental readings, and actively listening to assigned recordings. The volume of required reading material is modest, but I expect you to thoroughly absorb the readings. You will also be able to choose some of your own supplemental readings depending on your areas of interest.

It is very important that you listen repeatedly to the assigned recordings outside of class. The listening skills you will develop in this class will show you how to **actively** listen to jazz to increase your understanding and enjoyment of the music. Since the recordings are the most important sources of information for the course material you must commit time to the listening assignments to master the course material. If you do not feel that you have the time or interest to actively listen and learn from the assigned recordings I would suggest that you do not take this course.

As you are reading the text and readings keep a list of new musical vocabulary words and jazz expressions to ask me about in class. This will help you on the tests because I expect you to have a certain level of familiarity with the language of jazz, and musical terms and musician's expressions often give important insights into the concepts that we will learn.

You will also write a paper in which you analyze a jazz CD. The analysis should relate to the musical concepts covered in class. I will give you a handout mid-way through the semester that explains the details of this assignment.

## Grading

Three mid-term exams and a cumulative final exam will be given. The exams will consist of a variety of types of questions, including true or false, short answer, multiple-choice and essay. Each exam will also have a listening identification component and other questions related to the listening assignments. The weightings for the exams and the CD review are as follows:

Paper: 30%

Mid-terms: 45% (3 exams, 15% each)

Final: 25%. (Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00, Room 200)

Exam Make-up policy. Exams cannot be made-up unless 1) I am notified of an **unusual and very important** reason by the class **prior** to the exam (family commitments and work schedule conflicts are not sufficient reasons) OR 2) provided with written documentation of an emergency situation (e.g. signed doctor's excuse, accident report).

Attendance will also affect the final grade, as follows: you cannot receive a higher grade for the course than the percentage of time you are in class. For example, if you are present at 80% of the classes, the highest grade you can possibly receive is a B-.

A	92-100
A-	89-91.99
B+	86-88.99
B	82-85.99
B-	79-81.99
C+	76-78.99
C	72-75.99
C-	69-71.99
D+	66-68.99
D	62-65.99
D-	59-61.99
F	0-58.99

