

Don Wright Faculty of Music, University of Western Ontario
Introduction to Jazz (Music 2702b)
Winter 2024
Professor Jonathan Bakan
e-mail:jbakan@uwo.ca
Office Hours: By Appointment, Wednesday 4:30-6:30 pm, TC 316

This course will provide a survey of jazz music, its history, and its social contexts. This will include a study of major figures within the jazz tradition and the development of various jazz styles. The course has three areas of pedagogical focus: 1) historical, 2) theoretical, 3) experiential, and will incorporate weekly interactive lectures, readings and listening examples. Emphasis will be centered on historical and analytical perspectives that focus on narratives and histories “from below,” that is, on the (often contradictory) relationships of jazz history to subaltern social movements involving issues of class, race, and gender.

Required textbook: Course pack. Available at the Book Store at https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/MUS2702B

Required listening: Streaming music examples will be available through online services such as Spotify or Youtube, or through online resources available through the library’s webpage. In rare cases, you may be required to purchase individual musical examples through iTunes, or similar services.

This course will be taught in-person in weekly classroom meetings. However, as a contingency against any unexpected changes in the Covid environment, please note that it may be necessary to move some or all content online. Please see the “Contingency Plan” listed below (item ix).

An important note on classroom covid etiquette:

To insure a safe, covid-free environment please note that for all in-person meetings for this class:

-When in class, please consider wearing a good fitting mask covering both nose and mouth. For more info see <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/>

-Come to class only if you are well and symptom-free. If you are sick, stay home. If you have any symptoms consistent with a cold, flu, or Covid-19, even if very mild (unusual headache, sniffles, etc.), do not come to class.

Tentative lecture schedule [may be subject to change]:

Jan. 10. Lecture 1: Course Introduction: Scope and Definitions. Overview, concepts, and music basics.

Jan. 17. Lecture 2: Introductory material continued: musical terms and close listening.
Prehistories and preconditions to jazz: music under slavery: work song, spirituals, minstrelsy.

Jan. 24. Lecture 3: Prehistories and preconditions continued: band music, ragtime, rural blues, Tin Pan Alley,

Jan 31. Lecture 4: “Vaudeville Blues” and the “Great Migration.” Early jazz: New Orleans, a different mix. The 1920s: The Negro Renaissance; the jazz controversy.

Feb 7. Lecture 5. The first great jazz soloists: Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet. **Quiz.**

Feb 14. Lecture 6. From Society Orchestra to Swing: J. R. Europe and Fletcher Henderson.

Feb. 21. Reading week.

Feb 28. Lecture 7: Early jazz piano – New York Stride, and Boogie Woogie. Kansas City: Lester Young, Count Basie, Charlie Christian. Jazz and Politics: Swing and the CIO.

March 6. Lecture 8. Jazz and Politics: Swing and the CIO. White swing bands, Bennie Goodman, Charlie Barnet. **Mid-term test**

March 13. Lecture 9: Race, class and gender at New York’s first integrated jazz club: Art Tatum and Billie Holiday at Café Society.

March 20. Lecture 10: Virtuoso soloists in swing. Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Roy Eldridge, Jazz becomes “Art.” The emergence of the jazz concert. Ellington Black Brown and Beige. JATP. Crisis in Swing and the recording industry. The emergence of Bebop. **Annotated Playlist due**

March 27. Lecture 11: Bop continued. Key figures: Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Bud Powell, Thelonious Monk. The 1950s: Hard Bop and Cool jazz.

April 3. Lecture 12. Jazz and Politics: the 1960s. Free jazz, fusion.

Grade weighting

Quiz, Feb. 9, 2023: 15%.

Mid-term test, March 9, 2023: 35%

Annotated play list, March 23, 2023: 15%

Final exam, date TBA: 35%

IMPORTANT: The date and time of the final exam will be announced in class after it is scheduled by the Registrar’s Office.

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A note on use of generative artificial intelligence tools:

In this course, all work should be completed by you and you alone. As such, you are not allowed to use generative artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, to help you complete any of your work in this course (e.g., tests, papers, assignments, etc.). If you do not know whether an online resource or tool can be used in this course, please contact me for guidance. Any use of generative AI in this course will be considered a breach of academic honesty and an academic offense.

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i) **Course Prerequisites:** None. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work ($\geq 10\%$):**

Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work ($< 10\%$):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, students should contact the professor to discuss and seek suitable accommodation (such as a later due date). Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** **Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.**

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

xi) **Electronic Devices in Exams:** Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

xii) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty

of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.