

South Plains College
Department of Fine Arts

MUSI 1310 – American Music (Jazz)
Course Syllabus

Instructor

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Office

Fine Arts Building-Levelland-FA 142
Office hours as posted on office door and Blackboard or by appointment

Course Description

General survey of various styles of music in America. Topics may include jazz, ragtime, folk, rock, and contemporary art music. *This section of MUSI-1310 will focus on Jazz music in America.*

This course satisfies a **050 Creative Arts** Core Curriculum requirement.

The purpose of the Creative Arts component in the core curriculum is to provide the student the opportunity to develop an appreciation for the arts through an analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. This will involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will:

- Identify the elements, styles, and musicians, representative of music within the chosen style.
- Analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.
- Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on the chosen musical styles.
- Articulate an informed personal reflection of the chosen musical style.

Core Objectives Addressed:

- Critical Thinking: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Required Materials

- We will be using Open Educational Resources for this class, so students are NOT required to purchase a textbook.
- All supplemental materials, including required reading, prescribed listening, instructional videos, etc. will be provided on the course Blackboard page.

Blackboard

- Required for participation in this course
- Blackboard will be utilized for all written assignments and tests.
- All written assignments must be turned in digitally via Blackboard

Course Requirements

- Attend class meetings/lectures
- Read/Review any provided supplemental materials
- Listen/watch all assigned audiovisual materials
- Complete assignments or discussion boards and submit by designated due dates
- Complete and submit tests on the specified dates
- Attend at least one live performance event from the list approved by the instructor

Attendance

- Students registered in this class are expected to attend all class meetings/lectures.
- Students more than 10 minutes late will be counted absent.
- Absences may be excused at the instructor's discretion.
- Excessive absences will result in deductions of the final grade based on the following:
0-3 = no deduction; 4 or more = 5 point reduction per absence

Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated based on the following weighted criteria:

- Tests - 40%
- Assignments/Discussions/Participation - 60%

Late Work

- Graded work turned in after the due date is penalized: -10% within first week of due date, -10% for each additional day. No late work accepted after 12/9/2022
- Tests will not be accepted after the due date, unless there are extenuating circumstances that are approved by the instructor

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. A first offense will result in zero credit for that graded activity. Any subsequent offense will result in being dropped from the course with a grade of F. More information can be found in the Student Conduct area of the SPC Student Guide.

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE STATEMENTS & INFORMATION:

For information regarding **official South Plains College statements** about *Diversity, Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title V Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry*, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

COURSE SCHEDULE FALL 2026

Week 1 8/25 - Welcome lecture 8/27 - Origins of Jazz/ Listening	Introductory essay assignment (due 8/30)
Week 2 9/1 - New Orleans Beginnings/ Jazz pioneers 9/3 - Jazz popularity spreads throughout U.S. (pop. music/film/broadway through the 1920s)	
WEEK 3 9/8 - Louis Armstrong 9/10 - The beginnings of Swing	Listening quiz (in-class 9/10)
WEEK 4 9/15 - 1930s jazz icons. 9/17 - Duke Ellington/Count Basie/Fletcher Henderson	Discussion #1 Swing Documentary (due 9/17)
WEEK 5 9/22 - Benny Goodman/Billie Holiday 9/24 - More Duke Ellington	Listening assessment #1 (in-class 9/17)
WEEK6 9/29 - WWII era Swing Bandleaders 10/1 – No Class Meeting	Swing presentation assignment (due 10/6-10/8)
WEEK 7 10/6 – Swing band presentations 18/8 – precursors to bop	
WEEK 8 10/13 - The Bebop Sound/Innovators 10/15 - Charlie Parker	Mid-term test (10/15)
WEEK 9 10/20 - Dizzy Gillespie & Afro Cuban Jazz 10/22 - Thelonious Monk	Bebop album assignment (due 10/27) Discussion #2 (due 10/29)
WEEK 10 10/27 – Bebop album presentations	

10/29 – Post Bop - Miles Davis I	Album assignment #2 (due 11/17)
WEEK 11 11/3 – Modal Jazz, Cool Jazz, West Coast 11/5 – 1959 Documentary	
WEEK 12 11/10 – Hard Bop 11/12 – Avant Garde	Discussion #3 due (11/19)
WEEK 13 11/17 – Album presentations 11/19 – Early Fusion (Miles II)	Album assignment #3 (due 12/3)
WEEK 14 11/24 – Fusion	Final essay assigned (due 12/8)
WEEK 15 12/1 – Current state of jazz 12/3 – Album presentations	
WEEK 16 FINALS	Final essay Due, end of day 12/8