Course: Jazz Artists and Epochs MU 115Z  
Instructor: Neil Wetzel  office: room 317  
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Course Goal: The student will formulate a concept of the art form “jazz” through a historical perspective.

Course Objectives:
- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the different eras and corresponding styles of jazz.
- Student will be familiar with those musicians who have changed the direction of jazz.
- Student will demonstrate a knowledge of jazz as an evolution.
- Student will demonstrate a knowledge of jazz as an influence on other styles of music (classical, pop, commercial).

Requirements:
1. Regular, punctual attendance.
2. Class participation.
3. Completion of class assignments including 5 listening/writing assignments.
4. Attendance at one live jazz concert (with brief observation report).
5. Completion of reading assignments.
6. A 5-6 page research paper and 10 minute presentation of the jazz artist covered in the paper.
7. A mid-term and final exam.

Grading:
25% of grade is based on class assignments.
15% of grade is based on attendance and class participation.
10% of grade is based on the mid-term exam.
15% of grade is based on the final exam.
15% of grade is based on the research paper.
10% of grade is based on the presentation of your paper.
10% of grade is based on attendance at 2 live jazz performances and a written critique for each.

Attendance: Excused absences (accompanied by doctor’s note) will not be marked against the student. Arrival after 10:30 a.m. (20 minutes after start of class) will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Assignment Policy: Assignments are considered on time if received by 4:00 p.m. of due date. Each day late will result in a 10% deduction of the homework grade up to one week late. Assignments turned in over a week late will receive no credit.

Academic Honesty: Students must adhere to college-wide policies on academic honesty, as described in the Student Handbook on pages 52-57.

Required Texts: Tanner, Megill and Gerow, Jazz; McGraw-Hill pub.  
Walser, Robert, ed., Keeping Time: Readings in Jazz History; Oxford Univ. Press.
Content:

Week 1:  Introduction and requirements of the course. Why do we study the people we do? What is jazz and how to listen to it.


Week 5:  1920’s. White jazz musicians of jazz/pop in the roaring 20’s. Paul Whiteman, Frankie Trumbauer, Bix Beiderbecke, the Austin High Gang. The beginnings of big band jazz and swing. Second Listening/writing assignment due Fri. Feb. 11th.


------- SPRING BREAK -------

Week 9:  Be-Bop influences, jazz as a voice against prejudice. The great singers: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn. Class presentations begin.


Week 15:  Review for exam. Catch up on presentations.

Week 16:  FINAL EXAM. Date and time TBA.