Moravian College
Jazz Artists and Epochs - Syllabus
MUS 115
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Objectives
ÿ Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of jazz in American
culture and as a truly American art form.
ÿ Students will be able to recognize different eras and styles of jazz. ÿ Students will have
knowledge of the prominent jazz musicians of each era
and each player's contribution to the history of jazz.

Requirements
ÿ Regular, punctual attendance: students are required to attend every
scheduled meeting with only those absences that are excused by instructor.
Instructor is to be notified of ensuing absence. In addition, students are expected to
be in class and prepared by 10:20 AM, no later. Any arrival past 10:25 will
result in an official tardiness and will be appropriately penalized. ÿ Attentiveness and participation
in class. ÿ Preparation for each session / completion of assignments ÿ Attendance at, at least,
three (3) live jazz performances with a one-page
typed report of each documenting attendance.
ÿ A three-to-five-page research paper (topics to be discussed). ÿ Occasional pop-quizzes.

Grading
ÿ Attendance, 30%
ÿ Participation, 10%
ÿ Quizzes, 10%
ÿ Mid-term exam, 10%
ÿ Final exam, 15%
ÿ Research paper, 15%
ÿ Concert attendance, 10%

Text
ÿ Required: Introduction to Jazz History (Sixth Edition) by Donald D. Megill
and Richard S. Demory.

Schedule
ÿ 16 Jan: introduction. What is jazz? What is its role in American society?
ÿ 18 Jan: Pre-jazz - the roots of jazz; slavery and its abolition; Jim Crow
ÿ 20 Jan: Pre-jazz (cont.) - the Blues (Country Blues - Huddie Ledbetter,
7-29.
ÿ 23 Jan: New Orleans - Cosmopolitan, musical, diverse. Congo Square,
ÿ 25 Jan: New Orleans (cont.) - The soloists - King Oliver, Buddy Bolden,
Freddie Keppard, Sidney Bechet, Kid Ory. Read pp. 90-93.
ÿ 27 Jan: Jelly Roll Morton. Read pp. 82-88.
ÿ 30 Jan: Louis Armstrong. Read pp. 76-77.
ÿ 1 Feb: Louis Armstrong (cont.); Bix Beiderbecke. Chicago. The '20s, "The
Jazz Age." Read pp. 78-80.
ÿ 3 Feb: first recorded jazz (ODJB), popular "white" bands, James Reese
Europe.
ÿ 6 Feb: Missouri - Ragtime (pre-jazz) - Scott Joplin, Benny Moten.
Read pp. 35-41.
1 Mar: Mid-term review.
3 Mar: Mid-term Exam.
4 - 12 Mar: Spring Break.  No classes held.
15 Mar: Bop (cont.): Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Miles Davis, etc.  Read pp. 162-169.
17 Mar: Cool Jazz (West Coast) - Miles, Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, etc.  Read pp. 196-198.
20 Mar: Post Bop/Hard Bop - The '50s. Sonny Rollins, Clifford Brown, Art Blakey and Horace Silver (the Jazz Messengers), etc.  Read pp. 170-178.
22 Mar: Hard Bop (cont.) 24 Mar: Miles Davis - Early (Bop), the first quintet; Middle Period, the second quintet; Late, free-fusion.  Read pp. 196-7, 205-207.
27 Mar: Modal Jazz - Miles, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett.  Read pp. 198-201.
29 Mar: John Coltrane.  Read pp. 244-248.
5 Apr: Free Jazz (cont.); The Third Stream.  7 Apr: Fusion/Electric Jazz - The '70s. Weather Report, Miles, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, etc.  Read pp. 263-276.
10 Apr: Fusion (cont.); Crossover - Dave Brubeck, Dave Sanborn, the Brecker Brothers, Miles, the Yellowjackets, etc.  Read pp. 277-284.
12 Apr: Mainstream/Neo-classic - The '80s. Dexter Gordon, the Marsalises, Joshua Redman, Kenny Garrett, etc.  Read pp. 179-192.
14-17 Apr: Easter Recess.  No classes held.
19 Apr: Big Band Revival/Modern Big Band - Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Toshiko Akioshi, Maria Schneider, Jim McNeely, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Bob Mintzer, etc.
21 Apr: Modern Big Bands (cont.) 24 Apr: Acid Jazz/Hip-Hop - The '90s. Courtney Pine, Greg Osby.
26 Apr: Research Papers Due, presentations.
28 Apr: Final Review.
Final Exam TBA.