

COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC-159

Jazz History

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The purpose of this course is to examine the development of Jazz music from its origins to present day. Students will explore the different eras, styles, artists, literature and social issues associated with Jazz music. The class will include audio and video recordings to illustrate the stylistic differences and development of each era. Upon completion of this course, students will not only have a strong understanding of the history of Jazz music; they will also have improved listening skills for a greater appreciation of this American art form. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define Jazz music and its origins
2. Listen to Jazz music with a deeper understanding of its content.
3. Recognize various styles and style periods of Jazz music.
4. Identify specific artists and/or groups and their contributions to Jazz music.
5. Explain how history and social issues helped to shape Jazz music and vice versa.
6. Analyze song forms and discuss their importance to the development of style periods.
7. Recognize and discuss the pivotal compositions of Jazz music history
8. Understand and appreciate Jazz improvisation on a deeper level.
9. Identify and define specific terms relative to major style periods, i.e., blues, jazz, swing, Bebop

Major Topics

- I. What is Jazz?
- II. Listening Skills
- III. Origins of Jazz
- IV. Early Jazz
- V. Swing
- VI. Big Band
- VII. Bop
- VIII. Cool Jazz
- IX. Hard Bop
- X. Avant Garde / Free Jazz
- XI. Contemporary Mainstream Jazz
- XII. Jazz-Rock Fusion

XIII. Contemporary Jazz 1980 – Present day

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be based on participation in concert attendance, class discussions, completion of reading assignments, exams, presentation, writing assignments and participation.

Other Course Information

This course is an Arts and Sciences elective, a Fine Arts elective, and a Humanities elective.