INTRODUCTION TO JAZZ STUDIES: A SEMINAR

INSTRUCTOR: John Szwed

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular attendance and full participation in the seminar, including a short presentation (15 minutes) in one session

Read the three assigned texts and the xeroxed readings

Write two short papers (3-5 pages)
   1) comparing two histories OR two textbooks on jazz chosen from the list on pp. 320-321 of Jazz 101 or in consultation with the instructor
   2) comparing two jazz biographies of different musicians OR two autobiographies OR one of each, chosen from the list on pp. 332-333 of Jazz 101 or in consultation with the instructor

Write a final paper of at least 15 pp. on a topic determined after consultation with the instructor

REQUIRED READING

John Szwed, Jazz 101

Robert G. O'Meally, Brent Hayes Edwards, and Farah Jasmin Griffin, eds., Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies

David Ake, Jazz Cultures

Xeroxed reading packet

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

(Note: Readings that are not listed as being in Szwed, Ake or O'Meally, et al. are in the xeroxed readings)

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: No class

Read: John Szwed, pp. xi-75
"Introductory Notes" in O'Meally et al, pp. 1-6

"Compendium: Jazz -- Formal Definitions (1913-99)" from Andrew Clark, *Riffs & Choruses*


Ernst-Alexandre Ansemet. "Bechet and Jazz Visit Europe" (1919)

Roger Pryor Dodge. "Negro Jazz," (1929)

Jean-Paul Sartre. "I Discovered Jazz in America" (1947)


Ron Welborn. “Ralph Ellison’s Territorial Vantage”


Richard Sudhalter. “A Racial Divide That Needn’t Be”

Amiri Baraka. “Jazz Criticism and its Effect on the Art Form”

Stanley Crouch. “Jazz Criticism and Its Effect on the Art Form”

**Week 3: What is Jazz? Definitions, Improvisation, Origins, Discography, Bibliography**


Vijay Iyer. "Exploding the Narrative in Jazz Improvisation" in O'Meally et al, pp. 393-403

**Week 4: New Orleans (and Elsewhere)**

Szwed, pp. 79-125
David Ake, "Blue Horizon: Creole Culture and Early New Orleans Jazz," pp. 10-41

**The Swing Era**

Szwed, pp. 126-154

David Stowe. "Understanding Swing" from *Swing Changes* (1994)

**Week 5: Bebop**

Szwed, pp. 155-174


Jack Kerouac. “The Birth of Bebop”

Langston Hughes "Bop," (1961)

Dan Burley "Advanced Reading in Jive" (1944)

Mary Lou Williams and Milton Orent "In the Land of Oo-Bla-Dee" (1949)

Bernard Gendron. “‘Moldy Figs’ and Modernists: Jazz at War”

**Cool Jazz and Hard Bop**

Szwed, pp. 175-206

Anatole Broyard. “Keep Cool, Man: The Negro Rejection of Jazz”


**Week 6: Third Stream /Free Jazz**

Szwed, pp. 209-259


Art Lange. “Third Stream.”


Week 7: Fusion, Jazz-Rock, European Improvised Music, Punk Jazz, World Jazz, Psychedelic Jazz, Neo-Traditionalism, Downtown, Acid Jazz, etc.

Szwed, pp. 251-292

Stanley Crouch. “On the Corner: The Sellout of Miles Davis”

Peter Watrous. “Old Jazz is Out, New Jazz is Older”

Jackson Griffith. “Business Jazz Reconsidered”


Jazz Dance

Robert P. Crease "Jazz and Dance," from The Cambridge Companion to Jazz (2002), pp.69-80


Jacqui Malone. “Jazz Music in Motion: Dancers and Big Bands”

Week 8: Jazz Historiography

George Lipsitz. "Songs of the Unsung: The Darby Hicks History of Jazz" in O'Meally et al, pp. 9-26

David Ake. "Jazz Historiography and the Problem of Louis Jordan, pp. 42-61


SHORT PAPER ON 2 TEXTBOOKS OR 2 HISTORIES DUE IN CLASS TODAY

Week 9: Jazz Singing/Jazz Poetry

Szwed, pp. 293-299

William J. Harris, "How You Sound??' Amiri Baraka Writes Free Jazz," O'Meally et al, pp. 312-325

Travis Jackson. "'Always New and Centuries Old': Jazz, Poetry, and Tradition as Creative Adaptation," in O'Meally et al, pp. 357-373

Allen Ginsberg. “Howl”

John Hollander. Review of Howl and Other Poems

Alan Ginsberg. Letter to John Hollander (in Jane Kramer, Allen Ginsberg in America)

Week 10: The Jazz Life

John Szwed. "The Man," in O'Meally et al., 166-186


Kevin Gaines. "Artistic Othering in Black Diaspora Musics: Preliminary Thoughts on Time, Culture, and Politics," in O'Meally, pp. 204-223


SHORT PAPER ON BIOGRAPHIES OR AUTOBIOGRAPHIES DUE IN CLASS TODAY

Week 11: Jazz Photography, Art, and Advertising

Mona Hadler. “Jazz and the New York School.”


Jazz on Film

Szwed, pp. 314-317
Frederick Garber. “Fabulating Jazz”

Robert G. O'Meally, "Checking Our Balances: Louis Armstrong, Ralph Ellison, and Betty Boop" in O'Meally et al., pp. 278-296


Week 12: Jazz Fiction

Jason Berry. “Jazz Literature”

Willie G. (Bunk) Johnson. “The Bunk Johnson Story”

John Szwed. “Josef Škvorecký and the Tradition of Jazz Literature”

Donald Barthelme "The King of Jazz" (1977)