

# Music Z393: History of Jazz

## Introduction

### Course Objectives

Welcome to Music Z393 History of Jazz

This course focuses on the jazz music created during different eras of the twentieth century. When you've successfully completed the course you will be able to summarize the history of jazz, from the birth of jazz in New Orleans at the beginning of the twentieth century through the jazz-rock fusion movement of the 1970s, and discuss the different styles of jazz that were prevalent during those eras.

A large part of the discussion of the jazz styles presented in this course centers around the musicians who had a major impact on those styles and on jazz in general. Consequently, after you complete this course you will have a working knowledge of the major figures of twentieth-century jazz.

A history of any kind of music wouldn't even get started without the music itself, and in this course a primary emphasis will be placed on listening to jazz. After you complete this course, you will have developed a much keener sense of how to listen to jazz, as well as the ability to discern different ensembles, soloists, composers, and even some arrangers. You will also have a working knowledge of terms used by jazz musicians.

If you take full advantage of the [www.MyJazzKit.com](http://www.MyJazzKit.com) Web site, which accompanies the textbook, you will have an advanced knowledge of terms used by jazz musicians, as well as a better understanding of the makings of a jazz tune.

### Required Materials

Gridley, Mark C., *Jazz Styles: History and Analysis*, 10th edition, **value package** that includes the following components.

*Jazz Styles: History and Analysis*, textbook

*Jazz Classics 3 CD Set for Jazz Styles: History and Analysis*

*Jazz Demonstration Disk for Jazz Styles: History and Analysis*

MyJazzKit Student Access Code for [www.prenhall.com/myjazzkit](http://www.prenhall.com/myjazzkit) Web site

Burns, Ken, *Jazz: The Story of America's Music*, 5-set CD

Computer with CD player for interactive CDs

## Course Organization

There are ten lessons in this course. Eight of them are study lessons and two are exams (a midterm for lesson 5 and a final for lesson 10).

1. Lesson 1: Listening to Jazz and the Beginnings of Jazz
2. Lesson 2: Jazz Spreads Throughout the Land
3. Lesson 3: Swingin' Through WWII
4. Lesson 4: Bebop Arrives on the Scene
5. Lesson 5: Midterm Exam (covers lessons 1–4)
6. Lesson 6: The Cool Reaction to Bop
7. Lesson 7: Bop Branches Out Further: Hard Bop
8. Lesson 8: The Amazing Career of Miles Davis
9. Lesson 9: Radical Ideas: Jazz in the Sixties and Seventies
10. Lesson 10: Final Exam (covers lessons 6–9)

## Course Components

Each study lesson consists of

- a reading assignment in the Gridley textbook, which includes “Listening Guides” for the assigned jazz tunes
- a listening assignment, listing the jazz tunes you are required to listen to on the *Jazz Styles* and Ken Burns *Jazz* CD sets
- a graded written assignment of ten short answer questions, a bonus listening question (worth up to 5 extra points!), and two to four essay questions

Be sure to check out the MyJazzKit Web site, which provides a variety of study tools, including chapter quizzes, flashcards, documentary videos, listening activities, and even a chance to create your own jazz tunes using the “jazz combo” feature.

## How to Complete the Lessons

1. Read the lesson’s objectives, which tell you what you should be able to do when you've completed the lesson.
2. Read the introduction to the lesson (under Discussion).
3. Do the assigned listening. It’s important that you do the listening while you’re not distracted. Find a quiet place so you can completely focus your attention on the music. Actively listen to the tunes once. See textbook pages 16–17 for a list of “Listening Techniques.”

4. Complete the reading assignment in the textbook.
5. Now you are going to listen to the tracks from the assigned listening again, **but before you listen**, read the “Listening Guide” section in your textbook that corresponds with the track(s). Then, actively listen to the tune(s) observing the distinguishing characteristics discussed in the listening guide. Try to focus on one tune at a time, rather than trying to absorb the entire list at once.
6. Take the online chapter quizzes at the MyJazzKit Web site (<http://www.prenhall.com/myjazzkit/>) to see how much you learned and for more study tools, such as flashcards, to help you prepare for the exams.

**Note:** You may also want to explore the PBS Web site “Jazz: A Film by Ken Burns” (<http://www.pbs.org/jazz/>) for more examples of jazz styles, musicians’ biographies, interactive maps, and historical information. The Smithsonian Jazz site (<http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/>) also has information on jazz greats, as well as audio clips and educational games.

7. Complete the written assignment, consisting of short answer questions, a bonus listening question, and essay questions.

**Important:** For each lesson, you will want to listen to the assigned tunes *at least* three or four times. You'll be asked to identify the tunes on the midterm and final exams, so listen as much as you can. Listen to the tunes in your car, put them on your iPod or computer, and listen to them on the way to class or to work.

## Written Assignments

Written assignments should be between 3–5 pages in length, double-spaced. You will have both short answer and essay questions to answer for each written assignment. The short answers are worth a total of 50 points and the essays are worth a total of 50 points. So, each written assignment is worth a total of 100 points. Essays should reflect the listening that you have done; for example, for a question asking for a comparison between jazz styles, you should discuss tunes from each style in terms of their similarities and differences. Of course, purely historical questions, such as the influence of Spanish rule on New Orleans, need not be answered in terms of music.

## Exams

There are two exams given as part of this class. You may take the midterm exam after submitting lesson 4 and the final exam after submitting lesson 9. Both exams are structured the same:

- 40 multiple-choice questions (1 point each, 40 points total)
- 2 essays, one page each (15 points each, 30 points total)
- 30 listening questions (1 point each, 30 points total)

For more information on the exams, including review sheets and instructions on how to apply to take the exams, see the “Midterm Exam Tips” and the “Final Exam Tips” lessons.

## Grading

Because I feel that people learn more from researching (i.e., listening and reading) and writing their thoughts down, the exams will be worth a total of 25 percent of the final course grade, with the eight lessons cumulatively worth 75 percent of the final grade.

Grading scale for the course:

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

**Independent Study Program Policy:** The average of your exam grades must be a D- or better for you to pass the course. Even if your lesson grades are excellent, you will not pass the course unless you fulfill this requirement.