

SWING UNIVERSITY

Jazz at Lincoln Center, Fall 2014

John Wriggle

JAZZ 101 (Introductory)

SYLLABUS

WEEK ONE (Sept. 8)

OVERVIEW

WEEK TWO (Sept. 15)

NEW ORLEANS

WEEK THREE (Sept. 22)

THE JAZZ AGE

WEEK FOUR (Sept. 29)

SWING ERA BIG BANDS

WEEK FIVE (Oct. 6)

SWING ERA SOLOISTS

WEEK SIX (Oct. 20)

BEBOP & AFRO-CUBAN

WEEK SEVEN (Oct. 27)

COOL JAZZ / HARD BOP / MODAL JAZZ / FREE JAZZ

WEEK EIGHT (Nov. 3)

FUSION TO ... JAZZ TODAY: HOW THE MUSIC REACHED THE 21ST CENTURY

The roots of Jazz will be examined and the musical gumbo that was cooked in New Orleans will be explained. That development: The Birth of Jazz will be given context by examining the American Experience from colonial times. Jazz was first played outside of New Orleans during the 1910s & 1920s and was met with instant success nationally and internationally. Soon, many non-New Orleanians were even playing Jazz and adding to it. These surprising, near miraculous, developments will be studied as will the rise of Jazz's Big Bands and the music's prime time in pop music, The Swing Era (1935-50). BeBop emerged towards the end of The Swing Era and while rarely played in its pure form today, BeBop remains the most influential style in Jazz. Its descendents include: Cool aka West Coast, which flourished in the early 1950s; and Hard Bop, which reinfused The Blues into BeBop during the mid-1950s. Hard Bop is the most commonly played Jazz today. Even distinct new styles such as the use of modes and Free Jazz that appeared in the late 1950s are reactions to BeBop. The story of Jazz after 1960 is often a tale of economics. The music tanked financially in the 1960s and rebounded in the 1970s with both a revival of interest in its traditions and in a marriage with Rock'n'Roll (Fusion). Today the Jazz Scene is difficult to analyze and seems to display elements of the 1960s financial problems, the 1970s revival, and many types of cross-pollination that echo the advent of Fusion.