

**SYLLABUS**  
**EN 399.31 BLUE NOTES: THE LITERATURES OF JAZZ**

**Dr. Mark Osteen**

**Office: HU 226. Phone: x 2363**

**Hrs: Tu-Tr 11-1 or by appointment.**

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**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Ted Gioia, *The History of Jazz*. New York: Oxford UP, 1997.
2. Feinstein and Kumunyakaa, eds., *The Jazz Poetry Anthology*. Indiana UP, 1991.
3. James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*. 1912. New York: Dover.
4. Langston Hughes, *Collected Poems* (includes *The Weary Blues*, *Montage of a Dream Deferred*, and *Ask Your Mama*). New York: Vintage, 1994.
5. August Wilson, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. New York: Plume, 1984.
6. Toni Morrison, *Jazz*. New York: Vintage, 1992.
7. Billie Holiday, w/ William Dufty, *Lady Sings the Blues*. 1956. Penguin.
8. John Clellon Holmes, *The Horn*. 1958. Thunder's Mouth Press, 2000.
9. Geoff Dyer, *But Beautiful: A Book about Jazz*. New York: North Point Press, 1996.
10. Warren Leight, *Side Man*. 1999. Dramatists' Play Service, 2000.
11. Jack Fuller, *The Best of Jackson Payne*. 2001. Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 2003.
12. Selected short stories: Handouts.
13. Excerpts from the autobiographies of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus, Miles Davis, Art Pepper, others (handouts).
14. Selected essays (handouts).

**AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL**

**The music for each week will be broadcast on Sundays from noon to 3 pm on WLOY AM 1620 or <http://www.wloy.org>. I will provide details and changes each week.**

**ON RESERVE AT L/ND LIBRARY:**

*Greatest Ragtime of the Century*. Various Artists. Biograph Records.  
Ma Rainey, *Heroes of the Blues: Very Best of Ma Rainey* (Shout Factory)  
*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom: Original Broadway Cast Recording*  
Louis Armstrong, *Complete Hot Five and Hot Seven Recordings*. CD 0991  
Louis Armstrong, *Columbia Legacy*. CD 0605  
Duke Ellington, *Beyond Category* (CD 0403)  
*Complete Decca Recordings of Lester Young and Count Basie* CD 0953  
*Lester Young Story*: CD 0585  
*President Lester Young* CD 0606  
*Benny Goodman Live at Carnegie Hall* CD 0065  
Glen Miller, *Greatest Hits*. RCA  
Charlie Parker, *Yardbird Suite*. Rhino Records; or *Boss Bird* (Proper Box)

*Genius of Bud Powell* CD 0175

*Dizzy Gillespie*. CD 0598

*Charles Mingus*. CD 0645

Dizzy Gillespie, *Birk's Works: The Verve Big Band Sessions; Groovin' High* (Savoy)

Billie Holiday, *The Lady Sings* (Box Set)

Chet Baker, *Best of Chet Baker Sings; The Original Quartet with Chet Baker* (Gerry Mulligan)  
(Blue Note)

*Alone Together: Best of the Mercury Years*. Clifford Brown-Max Roach

Clifford Brown, *Beginning and the End*

Dexter Gordon, *Jazz Profile* or *Best of Blue Note Years*

Thelonious Monk, *Best of the Blue Note Years*

Miles Davis, *Birth of the Cool* (0685)

Miles Davis, *Kind of Blue* 0826

Miles Davis, *Complete Prestige Recordings: 0558*

Miles Davis, *Quintet 65-68: CD 0615*

Miles Davis, *Bitches Brew* CD 0168

John Coltrane, *Giant Steps* 0184

John Coltrane, *A Love Supreme* 0824

Ornette Coleman *The Shape of Jazz to Come* 0169

Weather Report, *I Sing the Body Electric* CD 0174

Chick Corea, *Return to Forever* MJ CORE REF C22 (LP)

Mahavishnu Orchestra, *The Inner Mounting Flame*

Wynton Marsalis, *Standard Time 3*. CD 0635

**Other selections will also be included in the radio broadcasts and will be announced in class from time to time.**

**Videos. All documentaries except *Let's Get Lost* will be broadcast on Loyola Cable Channel 52. See below for dates and times.**

#### Documentaries

*Jazz: A Film by Ken Burns*. All but episode 4. PBS, 2000.

*Wild Women Don't Have the Blues*. Dir: Christine Dall, 1989.

*Fats Waller. Jazz Collection*. Films for the Humanities, 1998.

*Black and Tan* (Duke Ellington).

*Lady Day: Many Faces of Billie Holiday*. Masters of American Music Series.

*Let's Get Lost*. Dir: Bruce Weber, 1989 (recommended).

*Thelonious Monk: Straight, No Chaser*.

*Charles Mingus: Triumph of the Underdog*.

*Gerry Mulligan. Jazz Collection*. FFH, 1998.

*John Coltrane. Jazz Collection*. FFH, 1998.

*Jazz Casual: Sonny Rollins, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane*

#### Fiction Films:

*Bird*. Dir: Clint Eastwood, 1989.

*Paris Blues*. Dir: Martin Ritt, 1961.

*Round Midnight*. Dir: Bertrand Tavernier, 1989.

*The Connection*. Dir: Shirley Clarke, 1960.

*Mo' Better Blues*. Dir: Spike Lee, 1990.

## REQUIREMENTS

**1. Blackboard Posts.** Each student will post at least one response to the reading and one to a recording each week; each student must also respond to three other students' posts every week. You will be graded on the quality of your posts, not just on the quantity. Therefore, posts that say only something like, "sick post, James," don't count for much. Your responses should become more sophisticated as the course proceeds.

### 2. Reviews.

A. Each student must write two reviews of an entire CD (not just one tune!) during the semester. At least one of these must be of a recording made before 1955 and should be turned in before November 1. Your review should list all of the players and their instruments, all compositions performed, and the date and location of the recording. Each review should be no more than three double-spaced pages long and should demonstrate familiarity with the artists' other work and with the period when the recording was made.

B. Each student must write two performance reviews over the course of the semester. That is, you must *go out and hear live jazz somewhere in the Baltimore area* and write a review of the performance, in which you comment on the repertoire, style, atmosphere, etc. of the artist(s) reviewed.

**3. Exams.** There will be an in-class midterm exam and (probably) a final exam, which will be given either on Dec. 15 or as a take-home essay.

**5. Presentation.** Each student will deliver an oral presentation, along with a partner, on a selected figure or movement. We'll sign up for these during the second class. No later than a week before your presentation date, you will meet with me to determine a topic.

#### *Guidelines:*

A. The presentations *must* include music and must also include a visual aide such as a film clip or handout with photos or musical notation, etc.

B. You must provide a bibliography with at least four *refereed* sources (i.e., actual books or scholarly journal articles, not just some schmo's webpage) on the evening of the presentation.

C. You should come equipped with two questions designed to encourage discussion.

D. Your grade for the presentation will be based on the level of poise and preparation; the degree of organization; the quality of the content; and the effectiveness of the visual aides. Depending on the nature of your presentation, the two presenters may get either a joint grade or separate ones.

E. Your seminar paper should grow out of this presentation, and will be due two weeks after the date of your presentation (if you present on December 8, your paper will be due by December 15).

**6. Seminar Paper.**

A. Every student will write a seminar-length (10-18 page) research paper, which should grow out of your oral presentation, and which will be due two weeks after the presentation.

B. The paper must discuss both music and literature in a substantial way.

C. Each paper must cite at least three secondary literary sources and at least two musical sources. At least two of the literary sources must be **non-internet sources**: i.e., books, articles, etc. Refereed journal articles taken from Project Muse, or JSTOR do not count as internet sources.

D. All research papers **must** be submitted to me electronically ([mosteen@loyola.edu](mailto:mosteen@loyola.edu)) as an e-mail attachment, as well as in hard copy. The English department subscribes to turnitin.com, a search engine designed to detect plagiarized work. I will check any suspicious paper for plagiarism.

**7. Ratios.** Your final grade will be determined according to the following ratios:

Posts and weekly preparation	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Performance and recording reviews	20%
Presentation and seminar paper	30%
Final exam	20%

**HONOR CODE NOTICE: EVERYBODY READ THIS!**

This course is covered by the Loyola College Honor Code. All students guilty of plagiarizing or cheating on any assignment will fail the course, regardless of their grades on other assignments or activities.

The English department regards plagiarism and other forms of cheating as the antithesis of scholarship, learning, collegiality, and responsible citizenship. The department defines plagiarism as any unacknowledged use of another's words or ideas. This definition applies to non-print media, including (especially!) the Internet, as well as to books, magazines, journals, newspapers, and other print media.

It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and to avoid it in all assignments. Students should familiarize themselves with the *Loyola Undergraduate Catalogue's* statement on "Intellectual Honesty," (pp. 67-8), as well as with the section "Citing Sources; Avoiding Plagiarism" (pp. 82-93, R5) in Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*, the English departmental handbook. Anyone having questions or uncertainties about plagiarism should consult with the instructor before submitting any assignment. When in doubt, err on the side of safety! Neither ignorance of the definition of plagiarism nor the lack of intention to deceive constitutes an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

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**SCHEDULE OF READING, LISTENING and VIEWING: EN 399**

**September 8: Introduction to Jazz Literature.** Orientation and listening.

**September 15: Ragging Race.** *READINGS:* J. W. Johnson, *Autobiography . . .*; Gioia, to p. 45. Merriam and Garner, “Jazz—The Word”; “Interpretations in Jazz: A Conference with Duke Ellington” (from *Duke Ellington Reader*); Waldo, from *This is Ragtime* (Handouts). *LISTENING:* Ragtime and spirituals; stride and boogie woogie piano; early jazz; later piano jazz. *VIEWING:* Ken Burns, *Jazz*, episode 1; *Fats Waller (Jazz Collection)*.

**September 22: Black and Blue.** *READINGS:* Wilson, *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*; Gioia, pp. 45-91; Hughes, selections from *The Weary Blues*; Larkin, “For Sidney Bechet”; essays by Sterling Brown, Albert Murray; Louis Armstrong writings, “The Satchmo Story” and “The Armstrong Story.” *LISTENING:* Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith and early blues singers; Louis Armstrong; others from Burns companion CD, disc 1. *VIEWING:* *Wild Women Don’t Have the Blues*; Burns’s *Jazz*, episode 2.

**September 29: Harlem and the Jazz Age.** *READINGS:* Toni Morrison, *Jazz*; Gioia, chapter 4; essay by Levine; selected poems by Tolson, Shirley, “Ellington Indigos,” Zimmer, “The Ellington Dream”; essays and nonfiction by and about Ellington (handouts and presentations). *LISTENING:* Early Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, Armstrong, Hot Five and Hot Seven recordings. *VIEWING:* Burns’s *Jazz*, episode 3, “Our Language”; *Black and Tan*. Presentations on Ellington, Henderson, et al.

**October 6: “It Don’t Mean a Thing. . .”: Swinging Identities.** *READINGS:* Holiday and Dufty, *Lady Sings the Blues*; Gioia, chapter 5; short stories: “Powerhouse,” and “He Don’t Plant Cotton” (handouts); prose excerpts from Mary Lou Williams, Mezz Mezzrow, Gary Giddins (on Goodman), Benny Green on Lady Day (handouts). *LISTENING:* Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman; Ellington; Count Basie, Lester Young, Burns, *Jazz*, companion CD, disc two and first eight tracks on disc 3 (through “Drum Boogie”). *VIEWING:* Burns’s *Jazz*, episode 5: “Swing: Pure Pleasure” and episode 6; “The Velocity of Celebration.” (For presentations: *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday*). Presentations on Lady Day, Count Basie.

**October 13: The Bebop Revolution.** *READINGS:* Gioia, pp. 200-258; Hughes, *Montage of a Dream Deferred*; “Bird Lives” and other poems from *Jazz Poetry Anthology*; essays by Lott, Gendron, Ellison, LeRoi Jones (handouts). *LISTENING:* Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, others; Burns companion disc 3. *VIEWING:* Ken Burns episode 7: “Dedicated to Chaos”; Film: *Bird*. Presentations on Bird, Diz, others.

**October 20: Midterm Exam.** Go hear some jazz!

**October 27: Beat and Cool.** *READINGS:* Holmes, *The Horn*; Gioia, pp. 259-92; selected poems by Bob Kaufman, William Matthews, Paul Blackburn, others from *Jazz Poetry Anthology*; essays by Ellison, Larkin. *LISTENING:* Recordings by Dizzy Gillespie big band, Gerry Mulligan,

Miles Davis, *Birth of the Cool*. *VIEWING*: Gerry Mulligan (*Jazz Collection*); Burns's *Jazz*, Episode 8. Presentations on Beats, West Coast jazz.

**November 3: Tragic Geniuses or Romantic Icons?** *READINGS*: Dyer, *But Beautiful*; Gioia, pp. 292-335; Boyer, "The Hot Bach"; excerpts from Mingus, *Beneath the Underdog*; Art Pepper, *Straight Life* (Handouts); selected poetry by William Matthews, John Sinclair. *LISTENING*: Artists profiled in Dyer: Mingus, Monk, Chet Baker, Pepper, late Ellington. *VIEWING*: *Charles Mingus: Triumph of the Underdog*; *Thelonious Monk: Straight, No Chaser*. Presentations on Mingus, Baker, Pepper or Monk.

**November 10: The Jazz Life.** *READINGS*: Leight, *Side Man*; short stories: Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues," Yates, "A Really Good Jazz Piano"; poem: "Broadway!" by Sorrentino. *LISTENING*: Clifford Brown-Max Roach group; Dexter Gordon; Ken Burns companion disc 4; Sonny Rollins; Benny Golson, "I Remember Clifford." *VIEWING*: *Round Midnight* and/or *Paris Blues*.

**November 17: Into the '60s.** *READINGS*: Hughes, *Ask Your Mama*; Gioia, pp. 337-364; essays by Scott Saul, Gary Giddins (on *Kind of Blue*); excerpt from *Miles, the Autobiography*; selected poems: Quincy Troupe, "Four and More," Zavatsky, "To the Pianist Bill Evans," others. *LISTENING*: Oscar Brown, Jr.; Sonny Rollins; Miles Davis, selections from *Complete Prestige Recordings*; *Kind of Blue*; selections from 65-68 quartet; selected hard bop recordings (TBA). *VIEWING*: *The Connection*; *Max Roach (Jazz Collection)*; *Jazz Casual: Sonny Rollins, Cannonball Adderley*.

**Dec. 1: Chasing the 'Trane: John Coltrane and Modern Jazz.** *READINGS*: Poems by Baraka, Harper, Cortez, Sanchez, others, on John Coltrane; Gioia, pp. 364-381; essays by Stanley Crouch, Nat Hentoff, Scott Saul, others (handouts). *LISTENING*: Coltrane, *Giant Steps*, *A Love Supreme*; Ornette Coleman, *The Shape of Jazz to Come*; fusion recordings: Miles Davis, *Bitches Brew*; Mahavishnu Orchestra, *The Inner Mounting Flame*; Weather Report; Herbie Hancock, others. *VIEWING*: *John Coltrane (Jazz Collection)*; *Jazz Casual: John Coltrane*

**Dec. 8: Living Art or Museum Piece?** *READINGS*: Fuller, *Best of Jackson Payne*; Gioia, 381-395; selected essays (Scott DeVeaux, others). *LISTENING*: Fusion: Mahavishnu Orchestra, Weather Report, Herbie Hancock, others; contemporary jazz: Wynton Marsalis, Greg Osby, Ken Burns companion CD 5; others TBA. *VIEWING*: Ken Burns's *Jazz*, episode 9; *Mo' Better Blues*.

**Dec. 15: Take home exam due.**

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Delete *Jazz*. Instead have Harlem Renaissance anthology.  
And/or add *Coming Through Slaughter*, and the second week on New Orleans.  
Cut week on Coltrane if we add Ondaatje; no need to order poetry anthology.

## SCHEDULE OF VIDEO BROADCASTS

### **EN 399: Blue Notes: the Literatures of Jazz** **Dr. Mark Osteen**

**All documentary films will be shown on Loyola's cable channel 52, Sunday and/or Monday evenings, starting at 7 pm unless otherwise specified.**

September 12: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 1

September 13: *Fats Waller (Jazz Collection)*

September 19: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 2

September 20: *Wild Women Don't Have the Blues*

September 26: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 3: "Our Language"

September 27: *Black and Tan*

October 3: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 5: "Swing: Pure Pleasure"; and *Lady Day: the Many Faces of Billie Holiday*

October 4: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 6: "Swing: The Velocity of Celebration"

October 10: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 7: "Dedicated to Chaos"

October 24: *Gerry Mulligan (Jazz Collection)*

October 25: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 8: "Risk"

October 31: *Charles Mingus: Triumph of the Underdog*

November 1: *Thelonious Monk: Straight, No Chaser*

November 14: *Max Roach (Jazz Collection)*

November 15: *Jazz Casual: Sonny Rollins, Cannonball Adderley*

November 29: *John Coltrane (Jazz Collection)*; *Jazz Casual: John Coltrane*

December 5: *Ken Burns's Jazz*, Episode 9