



UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music
Department of Ethnomusicology

Summer Session "A"
(June 24-August 2, 2013)

ETHNOMU 50A (GE Course)*

"Jazz in American Culture: Late 19th Century through 1940s"

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10am-12:50pm, 1343 Schoenberg Music Bldg
Instructor: Charley Harrison

Course Description

This course will survey the development of jazz in American culture from its inception in the late 19th century through the swing era of the 1930s and 1940s. We will discuss the different compositional/performance techniques and approaches that distinguish the sub-styles of jazz from one another, as well as the key historical figures that shaped the development of jazz during its early years. We will also touch on some important historical social issues (e.g. segregation, the Depression, etc.) that intersect with the history of the United States and jazz music.

Goals of the Course

- Increase students' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of jazz music.
- Understand the various features that distinguish jazz from other types of music.
- Understand how a jazz performance "comes together."
- Become familiar with influential jazz artists and learn more about how their contributions shaped the course of jazz history in American culture.
- Understand how jazz music relates to broader themes and issues in American history and culture.

Required Text: John Hasse and Tad Lathrop, *Discover Jazz*, Pearson, 2012

Course Reader (available at Ackerman Union Store)

Students will be graded on the following: 1) Two short essays, 4-5 pages in length; 2) A performance report, 3-4 pages in length 3) A midterm exam; 4) A final exam; 5) Attendance and participation.

Charley Harrison directs the UCLA Jazz Orchestra and a jazz combo as well as teaches jazz history for the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Department of Ethnomusicology. A native of Chicago, Harrison also serves as Associate Director and guitarist for the eighteen-piece Chicago Jazz Orchestra. As a composer, Charley's multi-dimensional compositions and arrangements meld modern, classic swing, Latin and contemporary jazz elements.

***(GE-approved course; fulfills the Visual and Performance Arts Analysis and Practice requirement)**

For more information: www.summer.ucla.edu / www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu