

**HONR 299**  
**JAZZ IN NOLA**

**COURSE INSTRUCTORS:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

To study jazz is to study away, to take one's place in a boogaloo procession breaking out of the classroom and into the streets, the kitchens, the club, the porch, the hall. To study jazz is to trace a tradition that has itself traveled from Africa to the American South, from the South to the industrial North, and from there to corners of the world. More than just a musical genre, jazz names a way of life, a means of recording history, a stump from which to express one's personal needs and desires, a lab for the social production of culture. Along these lines, we will use the city of New Orleans and the style of New Orleans Jazz as a case point for understanding the music and culture of improvisation. We will explore the emergence of jazz music against the historical backdrop of the transatlantic slave trade and research the process by which a certain style of American music was solidified into a specific genre, known as jazz.

Our immersive curriculum will allow us to participate in the social rituals surrounding jazz, and investigate the many art forms influenced by jazz, from fashion and the culinary arts to poetry and dance. Taking a socio-political approach, we will contextualize jazz within the larger framework of black liberation in America. And jazz will also provide us with a critical lens through which to understand our contemporary moment. Through music, we will examine the effects of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the local efforts to rebuild the city. But most importantly, students will gain an opportunity to develop a critical acumen for appreciating live jazz performance.

Although the trip will be carefully crafted to offer participants a once-in-a-lifetime tour of New Orleans and its musical heritage, we will be taking a note from the music itself and adopting an improvisatory spirit. Our goal is to follow the interests of the students and develop a truly organic set of learning opportunities. Interested parties can expect some version of the following: visiting numerous museums and cultural centers, participating in the tradition of the second line, touring the city's iconic architecture and public spaces, learning the "secrets" of creole cooking, playing music with local performers, and listening to beaucoup live music.

## COURSE GOALS:

1. Explore the emergence of jazz music against the historical backdrop of the transatlantic slave trade.
2. Research the process by which a certain style of American music was solidified into a specific genre, known as jazz.
3. Use New Orleans Jazz as a case point for understanding the various types of music that fall under the category of jazz.
4. Participate in the social rituals surrounding jazz, from live performances in the streets to culinary culture associated with New Orleans.
5. Debate the efficacy of authenticity as a metric for appreciating jazz.
6. Study the impact of tourism on New Orleans and New Orleans jazz.
7. Use Jazz music as a lens to examine the effects of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the local efforts to rebuild the city.
8. Develop a critical acumen for appreciating live jazz performance, which includes gaining an understanding of basic musical concepts and terminology.
9. Consider the influence of jazz on other art forms.
10. Contextualize jazz within the political framework of black liberation.
11. Investigate the place of women in the history of New Orleans Jazz.

## Required Texts:

Amiri Baraka. *Blues People: Negro music in White America*. New York: Morrow, 1963.

- Chapter: The Negro as Non-American: Some Backgrounds, pp. 1-10
- Chapter: Primitive Blues and Primitive Jazz, pp. 60-80

Dr. John. *Under A Hoodoo Moon: The Life of Dr. John the Night Tripper*

- Chapter: Third Ward, pp. 3-25

Thomas W. Jacobsen. *Traditional New Orleans Jazz: Conversations with the Men Who Make the Music*

- Chapter: Lucien Barbarin, Leroy Jones, Herlin Riley, Gregg Stafford, Joe Torregano, and Dr. Michael White: Danny's Boys Grow Up, pp. 66-109

Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedeker, eds. *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*.

- Map 1. "A City in Time: La Nouvelle-Orleans over 300 Years," pp. 13-18
- Map 14. "Repercussions: Rhythm and Resistance across the Atlantic," pp. 100-106
- Map 16. "Bass Lines: Deep Sounds and Soils," pp. 116-120

All Things Considered, "10 Years After Katrina, New Orleans' Brass Bands March On"

- Listen to the NPR story [here](#)

Nick Michael, "Hard Living in The Big Easy: Housing Costs Push Musicians Out Of New Orleans"

- Watch the NPR video [here](#)

## Optional Texts/Further Reading:

Sara Roahen, *Gumbo Tales: Finding My Place at the New Orleans Table*.

- Chapter: "Gumbo A Higher Education," pp. 3-20
- Chapter: Red Gravy, pp. 53-81

Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedeker, eds. *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*.

- Map 15. "Thirty-Nine Sundays: Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs," pp. 107-113
- Map 17. "Where Dey At: Bounce Calls Up a Vanished City," pp.121-126

## Playlist (accessible via Spotify):

<https://open.spotify.com/user/12123248557/playlist/1opwosPVNPTD2g8zjvxyKN>

## Inspirational Quotes:

"To express our lives and history, our needs and desires, our will and our passion, our self-determination, self-respect and self-defense. We wanted it to be a mass-art.

"To boogaloo out the classrooms and elitist dens of iniquitous obliquity and speak and scream and sing."

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

Saturday, March 11

- Check-in to hotel:
  - Royal Saint Charles Hotel. 135 Saint Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130
    - 504-587-3700
- 1:00 pm - [Irish Channel St. Patty's Day Parade](#)
  - Location: Parade route starts at the [corner of Felicity and Magazine](#)
- Lunch on your own
- Group Dinner [Meet at Hotel at 5:30]
  - Location: TBD
- French Quarter/Frenchmen Street, Search for Music

Sunday, March 12

- Breakfast on your own
- Group Lunch
  - 11:00 am - Jazz Brunch
  - Location: TBD
- Independent exploration (see below for suggestions)
- 6:00-9:00 - Dinner on your own
- 9:30 pm - Meet in hotel lobby. Depart hotel (walk)
- 10:00 pm - [Howling Wolf](#), Artist: Hot 8 Brass Band.
  - Location: [907 South Peters New Orleans, LA 70130](#)

## Monday, March 13

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 - Meet in hotel lobby. Depart hotel (street car)
- 10:00 am - [Hogan Jazz Archive](#) Research Visit and talk with Bruce Raeburn
  - Location: [Tulane University, Jones Hall, 6801 Freret Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118](#)
- Lunch on your own
- Independent exploration throughout afternoon (see below for suggestions)
- 6:00 pm - Meet in hotel lobby. Depart hotel (walk)
- 6:45 pm - Group Dinner & Music: [Three Muses](#).
  - Group 1 - 6:45 (8 people. Reservation under Jason Ware (2 people) and Pete Purdue (6 people)).
  - Group 2 - 7:00 (6 people. Reservation under Ashley Young)
  - Group 3 - 7:15 (8 people. Reservation under Pete Moore)
  - Location: [536 Frenchmen St, New Orleans, LA 70116](#)

## Tuesday, March 14

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 am - Meet in hotel lobby, Depart hotel (street car)
- 10:00 am -1:15 pm - Cooking demonstration, lunch, and culinary history lecture with Ashley Rose Young. Tour of Southern Food and Beverage Museum (SoFAB) and lecture on New Orleans-Italian food culture with President of SoFAB, Liz Williams.
  - Location: [Southern Food and Beverage Museum. 1504 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70113](#)
- Independent exploration throughout the afternoon. (see below for suggestions)
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Dinner on your own
- 8:30 pm Meet in hotel lobby. Depart hotel (walking)
- 9:00 pm - Snug Harbor.
  - Location: [626 Frenchmen St, New Orleans, LA 70116](#)

## Wednesday, March 15

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 am - Meet in hotel lobby
- 9:30 am -1:00 pm - Bus Tour with Dr. Richard Campanella. Cultural Geography/Musical History of New Orleans.
- 4:30 pm Meet in hotel lobby
- 5:00 pm - 8:00 [Lafayette Square Concert Series](#)
- 8:30 Group Dinner: TBD
- 11:00 pm - Optional Show: House of Blues ([Jet Lounge](#))

## Thursday, March 16

- Breakfast on your own
- 11:30 am - Meet in hotel lobby
- 12:00 pm - Lunch at [Dooky Chase's](#)

- Location: [2301 Orleans Avenue New Orleans LA 70119](#)
- 2:00 - Independent exploration through dinner (see suggestions below)
- Dinner on your own
- 7:30 and 8:30 (for 2 different groups going to Preservation Hall) Meet in hotel lobby
- [Preservation Hall](#)

#### Friday, March 17

- Breakfast on your own
- 12:30 pm – Meet in hotel lobby (for those going to the optional taste testing)
- 1:00 pm - Optional taste testing and tour at Antoine’s Restaurant with owner, Rick Blount
- 4:45 pm Meet in hotel lobby
- 5:45 Dinner on your own. Suggested location: [Camellia Grill](#)
  - Location: [26 South Carrollton Ave. New Orleans, LA 70094](#)
- 7:00 pm - [Rock’n’Bow](#)
  - Location: [3000 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans](#)

#### Saturday, March 18

- Breakfast on your own
- 11:00 am - Meet in hotel lobby
- 12:00 pm - Experimental performance at [the Music Box Village](#)
  - Location: [4557 N Rampart St, New Orleans, LA 70117](#)
- Lunch on your own
- 5:30 pm - Meet in hotel lobby
- 6:00 pm - [Italian American St. Joseph's Day Parade](#)
  - Location: Parade route starts at the [corner of Convention Center Blvd. and Girod Street](#)
- Dinner on your own
- 8:00 pm - Meet at hotel lobby
- 8:15 pm - Frenchmen Street Search for Music
- Optional evening event: music at the [Spotted Cat](#) for 21 and over
  - Location: [623 Frenchmen Street, New Orleans, LA 70116](#)

#### Sunday, March 19

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 am - Meet in hotel lobby
- 11:00 am - [Super Sunday & Mardi Gras Indians](#)
  - Location: [A.L. Davis Park](#), Washington Avenue and LaSalle Street
- Super Sunday Parade
  - Location: [A.L. Davis Park](#), Washington Avenue and LaSalle Street (Parade route: LaSalle, Left on Martin Luther King Blvd., Left at South Claiborne Avenue, Left at Washington Avenue, Ends back at A.L. Davis Park)
- Lunch/dinner on your own

## **COURSE GRADING SCALE:**

100-90 (A) – [A+: 98–100 / A: 92–97 / A-: 90–91]

89-80 (B) – [B+: 88-89/ B: 82-87 / B- 80-81]

79-70 (C) – [C+: 78-79 / C: 72-77 / C-: 70-71]

69-60 (D) – [D+: 68-69 / D: 62-67 / D- 60-61]

59.6 > (F) – For those who don't show up, don't do the work, or plagiarize.

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## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Participation is the primary assignment for this course. It is imperative that you participate in all the scheduled events in order to, per the course description, "...study jazz...as a way of life...a means of recording history...and a stump from which to express one's personal needs and desires..." **Participation is worth 70 points.**

Your final assignment will focus on creating the media and captions for an exhibit on New Orleans to be featured in the Honors College. Each student will contribute three items to the exhibit: a photo, a piece of material culture, and 1 minute of recorded audio. Each item will address some aspect of the musical history and culture of New Orleans. For the photo, you are permitted to use whatever camera you have at your disposal, including smartphone cameras. Material culture pertains to physical objects that you bring back with you, from concert tickets and promotional flyers to "interesting" trash and ridiculous souvenirs. Finally, for the audio, please use the microphone on one of your devices to capture a sound that seems especially representative of the city. We will collect all of the sound files splice them together to form one composition that will play in the background of our gallery space.

For each contribution (photo, material culture and audio), you will be responsible for authoring a caption to guide the viewer. Your caption should fulfill three requirements. First, it should provide a description of the object, image or sound. Here you are providing the viewer with relevant context to understand what it is they are seeing or hearing. Second, you should connect the object, image or sound to a larger idea about the musical heritage of New Orleans. For this, you will need to draw upon some aspect from an assigned reading. Finally, your caption should incorporate your own personal reflection on the image, object or scene. What meaning does it carry for you? **The final assignment is worth 30 points.**

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Syllabus Revisions**

Instructors reserve the right to amend the syllabus that we deem to be in the best interest of the group as a whole. Given the short duration of the course, we cannot provide 2 weeks notice, but we will endeavor to provide you with as much advanced notice as possible.

## **Absences**

As students have created their own schedules, it is assumed that they will be at all scheduled events and lecture on time and ready to contribute. Given the intense, immersive experience of this course, students are allotted **0 absences**. Students will lose a letter grade for each absence. If a student is absent, they have a responsibility to their group to make up for any group work they have missed.

- Special circumstances require a notice from the Dean of Students. See below for the University's Grief Absence Policy for Students. The link to the complete policy and implications can be found at <http://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/classabsence.htm>
- *Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). [...] A student should contact the Office of the Dean of Students to request that a notice of his or her leave be sent to instructors. . . . Given proper documentation, the instructor will excuse the student from class and provide the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments.*

## **Academic Integrity & Plagiarism**

Plagiarism can be defined as the appropriation of another person's intellectual property without proper permission or citation. A student is plagiarizing if he or she turns in someone else's work as their own, whether it is the whole paper, a copy-paste job of language from the web, or the presentation of another person's idea as the student's own. A student is also plagiarizing if they carelessly misrepresent their research or if they do not provide citations (or a works cited). Offenders will be reported to the dean and will be failed from the course regardless of the value of the assignment.

## **Statement About Disabilities**

Students with disabilities must be registered with Adaptive Programs in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided. If you are eligible for academic accommodations because you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please schedule an appointment with me.

## EXPLORE NEW ORLEANS FOOD CULTURE

When in New Orleans, try and cross these dishes off of your bucket list:

1. Bowl of Gumbo - available at numerous places
2. Coffee and Beignets - [Cafe du Monde](#) in the French Quarter \$
3. Po'boy Sandwich - available at numerous places
4. Muffaletta Sandwich - [Central Grocery](#) in the French Quarter \$ (one sandwich is good for 2 people)

**Po'Boy Places** - good for inexpensive lunches

- [Parkway Bakery & Tavern](#) \$
  - Location: 538 Hagan Avenue
  - Recommendation: Worth the cab ride! Try the roast beef po'boy ("dressed" with lettuce, tomato, and mayo)
- [Domilise's](#) \$
  - Location: 5240 Annunciation Street
  - Recommendation: Try the fried oyster po'boy
- [Avery's On Tulane](#) \$
  - Location: 2510 Tulane Avenue
  - Recommendation: try a seafood po'boy.
- [Johnny's Po'boys](#) \$
  - Location: 511 St. Louis Street
  - Recommendation: An okay restaurant, in a good location (the French Quarter). Try the fried oyster po'boy

**Breakfast Places** -

- [District](#) \$
  - Description/Recommendation: Fantastic selection of artisan donuts. Everything made from scratch. Varieties of donuts change everyday. I'm a fan of the Vietnamese Coffee, the Sriracha, and the Berries n Cream.
- [Satsuma Café](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Need to take a taxi. Cute place in the Bywater neighborhood. Check out their pancake of the day. The almond pancake is a must try when it is on their menu.

**Brunch Places** -

- [Commander's Palace](#) \$\$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Great Sunday brunch. It is a very colorful and musical affair. Must try a Brandy Milk punch cocktail. I always order the Turtle Soup, the Louisiana Sportsman's Brunch, and the Creole Bread Pudding Soufflé.
- [Elizabeth's](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Need to take a taxi. Breakfast and Brunch in Bywater neighborhood. The praline bacon is a must try. The duck waffle is also an intriguing item. Fun/casual ambiance – Dr. Bob's artwork on the walls.



- [Clancy's](#) \$\$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Consistently ranked in the top 10 place to eat in New Orleans. Many "old school" New Orleanians dine here for lunch.

#### Lunch Places -

- [Cochon Butcher](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Great sandwich place.
- [St. James Cheese Company](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Best cheese place in the city. Great sandwiches. Constantly holding wine and cheese events.
- [Pho Tau Bay](#) \$
  - Description/Recommendation: Need to take a taxi. Located on the West Bank. One of the best Vietnamese places in the city. Lemongrass beef dishes and rolls are good. Excellent pho and a good beef stew.
- [The Joint](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Need to take a taxi. Located in the Bywater area. Best BBQ in the city. Great homemade Chaurice sausage.
- [Rum House](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Located on Magazine Street in a really fun/diverse shopping neighborhood. Great tacos. Try the Lamb Vindaloo. Their side dishes are also good. I like the following: jerked rasta veggies, fried plantains, and the cornbread dressing. I typically sit outside and people watch. They have a great happy hour from 3:00-6:30pm on weekdays.
- [Shaya](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Modern Israeli. Affordable appetizer plates.

#### Dinner Places -

- [Noodle and Pie](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Hand made ramen and southern-style pies. One of my favorite places! Try the house ramen. And if they have the key lime pie on their menu, get it!
- [Feelings Café](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Located in the Marigny. Very popular among locals.

#### Bakeries -

- [Croissant D'or](#)
  - Description/Recommendation: The almond croissant is great. Frequented by locals in the residential part of the French Quarter.

#### Fine Dining

- [Cafe Degas](#) \$\$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Need to take a taxi. Classic French cuisine located on Esplanade Avenue near Fairgrounds and City Park. If you are in town for Jazz Fest, this place is very convenient to the music festival. I lived in the neighborhood of Esplanade Ridge, just a few blocks away from this restaurant,

during my research year. A very charming area! If you're in the neighborhood, grab a coffee at Fair Grinds Coffee and take a walk up to New Orleans Museum of Art.

- [Cochon](#) \$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Donald Link restaurant. Inspired by his Cajun heritage. Popular items include the fried alligator with chili and garlic aioli, the smoked beef brisket, rabbit and dumplings, and the mac and cheese casserole. My mentor, Liz Williams, loves the oyster and bacon sandwich. It's a very rich sandwich.
- [Lilette](#) \$\$\$
  - Description/Recommendation: Uptown on Magazine Street. A gorgeous restaurant with wonderful staff. I've never been disappointed with a meal here. I highly recommend it!