University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Strange Fruit: A subjective history of jazz (mostly American), PG_00206245		
Field of study	Cultural Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Optional subject group Specialty subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Culture Studies -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Grzegorz Piotrowski, prof. UG	
	Teachers	dr hab. Grzegorz Piotrowski, prof. UG	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the history of American jazz understood as the evolution of styles and artists - in the broad context of American culture (including customs and politics) and music technology, with particular emphasis on emancipatory and minority aspects.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[KULMU2_K01] The student understands the significance of knowledge, skills, and experience in professional activities.	The student understands the importance of conscious, analytical listening in initiating activities in the field of jazz culture animation.	[SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK6] demonstration of practical skills
[KULMU2_U04] The student has the ability to integrate knowledge from different humanities disciplines and apply it in unconventional professional situations.	The student integrates knowledge of the artistic, social and political aspects of American jazz.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[KULMU2_W05] The student possesses well-established, specialized knowledge in the field of audiovisual culture or cultural management.	The student has specialized knowledge of the varieties and creators of jazz in the United States.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[KULMU2_W04] The student has profound and organized knowledge concerning contemporary global issues and the theoretical, philosophical, and aesthetic foundations for reflecting on culture and art.	The student has in-depth knowledge of the theoretical framework of the functioning of musical culture.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[KULMU2_K06] The student systematically and consciously participates in cultural and artistic life, showing interest in current events in culture and art.	The student participates in contemporary jazz culture.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[KULMU2_U01] The student demonstrates fluent skills in searching, interpreting, and selecting information, utilizing various sources, media, and technologies, and formulates independent conclusions based on them.	The student, based on independent research, formulates reflections on American jazz.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

1. The Origins and Specificity of Jazz
2. Varieties of Traditional African-American Music
3. Jazz in New Orleans
4. Jazz in New York and Chicago at the Beginning of the 1920s
5. The Swing Era
6. The Human Voice as a Medium of Jazz
7. Bebop and Its Artists
8. Charlie Parker
9. Bebop I: Cool
10. Bebop II: Hard Bop
11. Great Jazz Experiments of the 1960s
12. John Coltrane
13. Fusion
14. Does Jazz Music Have a Gender and a Color?

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Presentation	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	• Gridley Mark C., Jazz Styles. History and Analysis, New Jersey [or] Boston [dany ed.]. • Niedziela Jacek, Historia jazzu. 100 wykładów, Katowice 2009. • Schmidt Andrzej, Historia jazzu, Lublin 2009.
Supplementary literature	Miniseries "Jazz" by Ken Burns etc.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

What is Charlie Parker's innovation?

Work placement

Not applicable

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