HNRS 2920 – Kind of Blue
Fall (1st Block) 2018 SYLLABUS

Instructor – Dr. Daniel Jonas
Office – BC 119
Phone – (801) 626-6443
Email – danieljonas@weber.edu
Office Hours – T-Th 9:30 am – 10:30 am, or by appointment

Class Meetings: Mondays 6:00-8:30 in BC318 for 1st Block only

Required Materials: Pencil/pen and paper for note taking, professor will provide required reading materials

Learning Outcomes:
In this course you will:

- Learn the history behind *Kind of Blue*, one of the most important recordings in the history of American music;
- Learn about the musicians who created this recording and understand their importance to the recording itself and to the lasting history of jazz and American music;
- Build a basic musical vocabulary;
- Understand what’s happening in the music in this album and why it’s so important;
- Learn how this album has shaped both popular music and popular culture.

Expectations:
You are expected to find out from a peer any information you might miss if you are inadvertently absent, and be prepared for any following class.

Grading Policy – This class will be graded on a pass/fail system. Your grade will be determined by a mix of attendance, classroom discussion/participation, and a few journal assignments. However, the professor may assign reading/research outside of class to facilitate class discussion.

**Attendance – 33%**
Because this class only meets once a week, attendance is mandatory and imperative. Each unexcused absence will result in a 10% deduction. Two or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class.

**Participation/Discussion – 33%**
Participation in the class and class discussions is mandatory. Students who fail to participate in discussions or in the class will receive a failing grade.
**Reading/Journal Assignments – 33%**

In order to facilitate class discussion and to provide extra background for the lectures, a few (5) reading assignments of approximately 10 pages each will be assigned in Canvas during the semester. Each assignment will have a corresponding writing prompt for a journal entry. The entries must address the question and be a minimum of 250 words to receive a passing grade. These questions and journal entries will then become the basis of class discussion for the week they are assigned.

Full credit make-up work will be given in the event of documented illness, family emergency, or official University absence cleared in advance with the Office of Student Services and the instructor/professor. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Academic Dishonesty:** As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course.

**Core Beliefs:** According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “determine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student’s core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student’s request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student’s beliefs.”

**Disability Accommodation:** PPM 3-34 notes: “When students seek accommodation in a regularly scheduled course, they have the responsibility to make such requests at the Center for Students with Disabilities before the beginning of the quarter [semester] in which the accommodation is being requested. When a student fails to make such arrangements, interim accommodations can be made by the instructor, pending the determination of the request for a permanent accommodation.”

**Emergency Closure:** If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class through Canvas. Look for announcements on Weber e-mail.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><em>Kind of Blue</em> – the recording</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Basics of Jazz/Music Theory</td>
<td>Article – What to Listen to and Watch For When Enjoying Jazz</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>History of Jazz to 1959</td>
<td>Freedom Principle – 105-112</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>The Sextet +1</td>
<td>Davis Autobiography – 222-235</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>In-depth analysis of <em>Kind of Blue</em></td>
<td>Blue Moment – 95-103 existentialsism</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>The Legacy of <em>Kind of Blue</em></td>
<td>Kind of Blue – 177-186</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Modal Jazz Performance</td>
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