

Project Year

2006

Project Team

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Project Title

Jazz Changes

Audience

Undergraduates enrolled in *Bebop, Modernism, and Change*

Pedagogical Issue

The *Bebop, Modernism, and Change* seminar explores the social and political content, meanings, and intent of jazz and bebop music. However, contemporary jazz scholarship requires students to reflectively listen to the sounds, movements, and states of feeling expressed in the lyrics in order to more fully understand the history, meaning, and impact of the music upon the social transformation of modern America. There is insufficient time in the classroom to play all the necessary clips, and the audio resources, although mostly digital, are not yet collected in a central location that the students can easily access.

Solution

This project will work to incorporate the wealth of Jazz-related resources from a variety of sources (e.g., the Baltimore area, Afro-Cuban creative artists, etc.) into a central and easily accessible WebCT course site. A wide variety of digital resources - images, audio clips, and video clips - will enhance the ability of the students to think critically and to construct knowledge of the frustrations, aspirations and rebellious sensibilities experienced by black Americans during the 1940s through the 1960s. The project's digitized resources will also be made available to the Jazz Studies Program at the Peabody Institute.

Technologies Used

Adobe PDF, Courseware (WebCT development), Digital Audio, Digital Video, HTML/Web Design

Project Abstract

The purpose of the Jazz Changes project is to digitize key instructional resources for the *Bebop, Modernism, and Change* seminar. Jazz Changes will explore the social and political content, meanings, and intent of jazz music, in general, and bebop music, in particular. While the major historical focus is from the 1940's to the 1960's, the program also examines the broader history of black progressive music (jazz) and its impact on the social transformation of modern America. Its interdisciplinary approach to knowledge (historical, political, cultural, and philosophical) allows students to reconsider the meaning of bebop music and the significance of its African American creators with respect to the changing nature of American society. A wide variety of digital resources - images, audio clips, and video clips - will

significantly enhance and support teaching and learning in each of the following seminar modules:

1. The Blues-Jazz Aesthetic: Historical Conditions and Black Cultural Expression
2. To Be, or Not...To Bop: Black Existential Reality and the Formation of a Bebop Figure
3. Sad and Strong Blues Women in the Whirlwind
4. Black Artists as Interpreters of Black Expressive Culture
5. Broader Meanings and Significance of Jazz to Modern American Culture
6. Black Literary Discourse and the Blues-Jazz Aesthetic: Analysis and Critique

As an academic information technology program, Jazz Changes represents the expansion of faculty development and pedagogical innovation necessary to achieve excellence in the 21st century. The broader goal is to develop the technological proficiency of students and faculty. Jazz Changes will enhance the academic experience in the seminar and prepare students, inside and outside of the classroom, for new realities in the information age. In addition to providing access to appropriate digital materials in WebCT, meaningful online learning activities will be developed that correlate with the seminar's content and learning objectives. Hence, the benefit of the proposed project will be judged by seminar students, working individually and collectively. They and I will determine through ongoing and final assessments how well the project provides the resources to engage students, improve learning, augment research, and increase technology literacy.