

FEIT INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Fall 2021

Jazz: Cultural Touchstone of the 20th Century

PMWH

Monday/Wednesday 5:50-7:05

Gene Marlow, Journalism

Jazz, “America’s classical music,” has been called the only indigenous contribution made by the United States to world culture.

In the first third of the semester, we will explore various jazz styles and the relationship between jazz and other fine and performing arts. In the balance of the semester, we will examine jazz in relation to society at large. For example, it is almost impossible to talk about jazz without reference to racism and as a metaphor for democracy. Almost every week, the course coordinator will host guest experts from many corners of the jazz world, including performers, club owners, photographers, journalists, label executives, public relations practitioners, and historians, among others. Early in the semester each student will identify an area of interest and develop a research project for presentation at the end of the semester. Among various resources, students will be provided with a reference reading list, including such works as Jazzocracy by Kabir Sehgal, Jazz: The First Century by John Edward Hasse, and Jazz Planet, edited by E. Taylor Atkins.

New York City Englishes: Dialect, Identity, and Culture

MMH

Monday 11:10-2:05

Brooke Schreiber, English

Regina Bernard, Black and Latino Studies

This Feit Seminar will focus on the diversity of Englishes spoken in New York City, in particular African American Vernacular English (also called Black English), Spanglish, and Caribbean Creoles, and why those dialects have traditionally been treated as linguistically and socially inferior when considered against the White, middle-class standard. The course will address the history and formation of these dialects, their current forms, and how they are represented in literature and pop culture, as well as the debate over the merits of code-switching as an educational approach. Students will complete a semester-long research project on a dialect of their choosing. Evaluation will be based on leading and participating in class discussions, the research paper, and a final presentation.