BIIBLIOGRAPHY: Selected Readings on Jazz

General, Historical, and Academic

(A widely respected general history of jazz’s development.)

(A recent, popular and well-regarded historical survey of jazz and its history.)

(A scholarly look at various forms of early African American musical forms.)

(An excellent history of how the blues arose out of the slavery era.)

(Published in 1956, this book provides good insights into traditional jazz.)

(A scholarly examination of music from ragtime to 1930, full of musical analyses)

Biographical

(A fascinating look at New Orleans in the early 1900s.)

( the composer’s personal recollections but not much insight into his music.)

(A musicologist examines Ellington’s unique contribution as a composer.)

(the education and musical evolution of jazz’s greatest composer.)

(A passionate autobiography full of the composer’s life experiences.)

Milestones: The Music and Times of Miles Davis, Vols 1 and 2. Chambers, Jack. Beech Tree Books/Wm Morrow & Co. The definitive biography in two large volumes,

(celebration of Armstrong – the first great jazz soloist – and his times)

(A in-depth look at the tortured life and musical salvation of this symbolic figure)

(A detailed appreciation with many musical examples, for serious reading.)

Collections – Essays on various musicians

(An “impressionistic” – fictionalized – re-creation of the lives of jazz musicians.)

Riding on a Blue Note: Jazz & American Pop. Giddins, Gary. DaCapo reprint.

Books by the Instructor.

(A survey of the great recording sessions from all styles of jazz.)

(History of jazz piano and interviews with 20 of its most prominent artists.)