From “Exploring Jazz” -- Jan. 13, 2016 class

Jazz has characteristics that unite all the styles, but no characteristic is necessary or sufficient.

speech-like (vocalized) use of instruments of instruments; personalized individual sound -- not a pure or idealized sound.

Improvisation - spontaneous creation, something we do all the time in language

Creativity and individuality, Jazz emphasizes the performers rather than the intentions of the composer. Almost every composition is interpreted.

Unique rhythmic feeling: known at different times as “syncopation,” “swing,” or “polyrhythm.”

Ambiguity, tension, conflict, and circumlocution

"Blues” tonality informs the sound of jazz.

Call and response dialogue between instruments, voices, or in the composition itself.

Medley illustrating the variety of music embraced by jazz:
1. Fred Haas, “Theme for Ernie” (1990)
2. Count Basie Orchestra, “One “Clock Jump” (1939)
3. Louis Armstrong, “West End Blues” (1928)
4. Miles Davis (“Flamenco Sketches” (1959)
5. James P. Johnson, “You’ve Got To Be Modernistic” (1939)
7. Duke Ellington Orchestra “Cottontail,” (1940)

Other recordings played that are available as single tracks on iTunes or other music services (in addition to the excerpts in the opening medley).

“Body and Soul” - Josh Redman

“Bye Bye Blackbird” – Bob Fosse group

“Bye Bye Blackbird” – Miles Davis Quintet

“Don’t Blame Me” – Charlie Parker

“Ding Dong the Witch is Dead” – Tierney Sutton