ARTS 617: MUSIC AND DOWNTOWN NEW YORK, 1950-1970  
Wesleyan University GLSP, Spring 2012  
Syllabus (DRAFT 11/30/11)

Instructor: Eric Charry, MS201, 685-2579, echarry@wesleyan.edu  
Course hours: Special Schedule: Saturday & Sunday January 14-15;  
trip to NY on Sunday January 22; Saturday January 28 and February 18  
Room: MS301  
Office hours: TBA and by appointment  
Course website: moodle.wesleyan.edu and musc125.blogs.wesleyan.edu

Course Description: This course will explore the history and simultaneous flourishing of four distinct music communities that inhabited and shaped downtown New York during two particularly rich decades in American culture: Euro-American experimentalists, an African American jazz-based avant-garde, blues and folk revivalists, and Lower East Side rock groups. Much of the course will be devoted to understanding their points of convergence and divergence, especially in conversation with broader currents of the time, such as the civil rights movement and related notions of freedom, shifting youth subcultures, and avant garde aesthetics.

We will read about a wide variety of musicians, listen to recordings, identify aesthetic trends, and study the local industry that supported them. This will include examining the catalogs of record labels, analyzing the environments and bookings of coffee houses, clubs, and concert spaces, and reading primary local sources.

Required book (available at Broad St. Books, 45 Broad Street—at corner of William St., 347-1194)  

All other readings are on Olin library online electronic reserve (ERes). Smithsonian Global Sound, available through our Blackboard or via the Indexes and Databases page of the Olin online catalog (http://wesleyan2.classical.com/).

Course Requirements  
Reading: Reading the articles and chapters is required as indicated in the syllabus and announced each class.

Listening: Recordings will be available for online listening (go to the library Course Reserve page and connect to ERes). Additionally, we will make extensive use of the Smithsonian Global Sound website, which contains the complete Folkways catalog online (there is a link from our Blackboard site). Students should listen to and study the pieces discussed in each class.

Writing: One midterm essay (5-7 pages) and one final essay (10-12 pages) on two of the four genres covered (folk, jazz, experimental, rock). The topics are to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Complete citations and/or footnotes should be given for all of the sources used in your papers. Websites may be used for research, but they should be fully cited. Also informal moodle postings on the reading.

Oral Presentations: Students will give an oral presentation based on their midterm paper or final paper.

Attendance Policy: Due to the intensity of the semester, consistent class attendance is required and students are expected to arrive on time. Any problems should be discussed with the instructor as unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade. Please keep cell phones turned off while in class.

Grades: Your grade will be primarily determined by the two essays, class participation, and oral presentation.
# SCHEDULE OF CLASS WORK  
(Subject to change)

## Week 1
**Sat. 1/14**  
**Introduction to the course**  
Wetzsteon (2002: ix-xvii, 1-14)  
Miles (1993: 165-179)  
Sandler (1993: 320-332)  

**FOLK REVIVAL**  
Van Ronk and Wald (2005)  

**Sun. 1/15**  
**JAZZ**  
Litweiler (1992: 77-84, 90-94, 103-107)  
Spellman (1966: 6-27, 36-37, 67-68)  
Jones (1990: 33-37, 172, 187-189)  
Wakefield (1992: 298-318)  

**ROCK UNDERGROUND**  
Heylin (1993/2005: xi-xv, 3-31)  
Willis (1979/1997: 70-81)  
Henderson (1981: 68-81)  
Sanders (1994a, 1994b)  

## Week 2
**Sun. 1/22**  
**TRIP TO NY**

## Week 3
**Sat. 1/28**  
**EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC**  
Banes (1993: pages TBA)  
Johnson (2002: 1-15)  
Bernstein (2002: 113-133)  

**MIDTERM PAPER DUE: Monday February 6, 2012**

## Week 4
**Sat. 2/18**  
**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**  

**FINAL PAPER DUE: Monday March 12, 2012**
Bibliography

Beard, Rick and Leslie Cohen Berlowitz (eds.)

Banes, Sally

Bernstein, David

Cantwell, Robert

Dylan, Bob

Henderson, David

Heylin, Clinton

Johnson, Steven

Jones, Hettie

Jones, Leroi (aka Amiri Imamu Baraka)

Kostelanetz, Richard

Litweiler, John

McNamara, Brooks

Miles, Barry

Rockwell, John

Sandler, Irving

Sanders, Ed
1994a Notes to The Fugs First Album, (reissue of The Village Fugs), Fantasy, FCD-9668-2.
1994b Notes to The Fugs (reissue of The Fugs Second Album), Fantasy, FCD-9669-2.

Saul, Scott

Spellman, A. B.
Szwed, John
1998  *Space is the Place: The Lives and Times of Sun Ra*. New York: Da Capo.

Van Ronk, Dave and Elijah Wald

Wakefield, Dan

Wallock, Leonard

Wetzsteon, Ross

Willis, Ellen