# Z385 - HISTORY OF THE BLUES

**Required Textbooks:**
1. *Nothing But The Blues: The Music and the Musicians* by Lawrence Cohn
3. COURSE MAXI-PACKET (available at Mr. Copy – 501 E. 10th St.)

**WEEK 1**
- **Tuesday**
  - Introduction
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 1
- **Thursday**
  - Classic Blues Women
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 3

**WEEK 2**
- **Tuesday**
  - Classic Blues Women continued, Country Blues: Texas
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 2
- **Thursday**
  - Country Blues: Mississippi

**WEEK 3**
- **Tuesday**
  - Country Blues: Mississippi continued
- **Thursday**
  - Country Blues: Mississippi continued, Memphis

**WEEK 4**
- **Tuesday**
  - Country Blues: Jug Bands, Harmonica Players, St. Louis
- **Thursday**
  - EXAM #1

**WEEK 5**
- **Tuesday**
  - Piedmont Blues
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 6
- **Thursday**
  - Piedmont Blues continued, Piano Blues

**WEEK 6**
- **Tuesday**
  - Piano Blues continued, Boogie Woogie
- **Thursday**
  - Country Blues 1935-42
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 8 pp. 265-287

**WEEK 7**
- **Tuesday**
  - Country Blues 1935-42 continued, Holy Blues
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 4
- **Thursday**
  - Holy Blues continued, White Blues
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 7

**WEEK 8**
- **Tuesday**
  - EXAM #2
- **Thursday**
  - City Blues
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 5 pp. 151-179

**WEEK 9**
- **Tuesday**
  - City Blues continued, Rhythm & Blues
  - Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 9
Thursday Rhythm & Blues continued

WEEK 10
Tuesday Post-War Country Blues, Chess Records
Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 5 pp. 179 - 203
Thursday Chess Records continued

WEEK 11
Tuesday Sun Records, Post-War Chicago
Thursday Post-War Chicago continued

WEEK 12
Tuesday **EXAM #3** Exam will cover CDs #9 - #12
Thursday Urban Blues

WEEK 13
Tuesday Urban Blues continued, Swamp Blues
Thursday Field Trips 1955-60, British Blues
Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 8 pp. 288-311, Chapter 10

WEEK 14
Tuesday British Blues continued
Thursday 1960s Chicago & Beyond
Read: *Nothing But the Blues*, Chapter 11

WEEK 15
Tuesday 1960s Chicago & Beyond continued, 1970s & Beyond
Thursday 1970s & Beyond continued

WEEK 16
Tuesday Tuesday 7:15 – 9:15 **EXAM #4** Exam will cover CDs #13 - #16

**EXAMS** - Each of the four exams is worth 50 points. All tests follow the same format: 30 points of short answer and essay questions taken from the lectures & reading assignments followed by 20 points of listening/music identification. For the 20 points in the listening section of each exam, you will hear 20 excerpts (45 seconds to a minute long) from the songs covered and be expected to identify the artist for each.

**GRADING SCALE** – Grades are assigned based upon the total number of points that you earn for the semester divided by the 200 total points possible.

- A+ = 98% (196-200)
- A = 92% (184-195)
- A- = 90% (180-183)
- B+ = 88% (176-179)
- B = 82% (164-175)
- B- = 80% (160-163)
- C+ = 78% (156-159)
- C = 72% (144-155)
- C- = 70% (140-143)
- D+ = 68% (136-139)
- D = 62% (124-135)
- D- = 60% (120-123)
- F = (119 points and below)