**“Big Idea” (highlighted) and Objectives from MUS 307 Jazz Appreciation Syllabus**

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course, you will learn to speak and write intelligently about music, particularly about jazz. In the pursuit of that goal, you will be able to do the following:

1. Develop listening skills that will improve your understanding and appreciation of music through the following activities:

---Recognize specific selections from prescribed lists of songs.

---Recognize musical elements such as form and rhythmic feel.

---Recognize the use of improvisational and musical devices such as motivic development.

1. Develop competency in the history of jazz through the following activities:

---Identify the instrument, style, and contribution(s) of important jazz musicians.

---Name the characteristics of and understand the relationships between each jazz style.

---Elaborate more deeply on the contributions of the five “all-time jazz greats.”

---Articulate the relationship between music and society, in particular as it relates to jazz and American history.

1. Use your acquired vocabulary and listening skills to effectively describe and evaluate music through the following activities:

---Effectively describe instructor-chosen selections detailing your critical reaction, the musical elements that are present, and the influence of societal context on the music.

---Participate in discussion forums about jazz as your interests dictate.

1. Explain the musical processes and elements involved in the creation of jazz through the following activities:

---Globally describe the process of improvisation, and point to factors that differentiate improvisers.

---Describe the framework and principles that jazz groups use in their art.

---Explain the latitude for interaction, communication, and self-expression that is available in jazz, and the relationship between those latitudes and principles of American society.

---Clearly define 15-20 terms that are essential to describing jazz.