The “Blue” Note

• 12 tone system
• Other ways to divide notes
• Demo
• Bending notes
• Blur between major and minor keys
• Africanism
Big Band Blues

• Some of the first blues recordings ever were done in a big band, jazzy style:

Ex: W.C. Handy – “Memphis Blues” (1914)
• Heard song on the street in 1890s

Ex: Mamie Smith – “Crazy Blues” (1920)
• Classic Blues
• The “first” blues recording
• Jazz connections
• New Orleans
T-Bone Walker

• 1910-1975
• b. Linden, Texas
• First record 1929

• Extremely influential guitar player
• West Coast blues, jazzy sounds

Ex: T-Bone Walker

– “They Call it Stormy Monday (But Tuesday’s Just As Bad)” (1947)
BB King

- 1925-2015
- b. Bernclair, Mississippi
- Sam Phillips
- Los Angeles

- Endless tours

- Big band jazzy style

Ex: BB King – “Everyday I Have the Blues” (1955)
Ex: BB King – “Everyday I Have the Blues” (Live at the Regal, 1965)
BB King

• Another blues style: Orchestral blues

Other Blues Musicians and Styles

• John Lee Hooker

• Big Mama Thornton

• Freddie King

• Albert King
John Lee Hooker

• 1917-2001
• b. Coahoma County, Mississippi
• Detroit, 1943

• Difficult to play with

• One chord, boogie-rhythm style (demo)

Ex: John Lee Hooker – “Boogie Chillen” (1949)
Big Mama Thornton

• 1926-1984
• b. Willie Mae Thornton
• Ariton, Alabama

• Where are the women? (big band)
• American Folk Blues Tours

Ex: Big Mama Thornton – “Hound Dog” (1952)
Freddie King

• b. Gilmer, Texas
• 1934-1976

• Chicago, Chess rejection

• King Records, Cincinnati

Ex: Freddie King – “Tore Down” (1961)
Albert King

- b. Indianola, Mississippi
- 1923-1992
- Stax Records, R&B
- Guitar style

Ex: Albert King – “Born Under a Bad Sign” (1967)
Too many important blues musicians to cover:

• Mississippi John Hurt
• Buddy Guy
• Jimmy Reed
• Jimmy Rogers
• Bobby “Blue” Bland
• Lightnin’ Hopkins
• Mississippi Fred McDowell
Blues/R&B/Early Rock n Roll

• Blues origins of rock and roll

• White and Black originators

• Race and Genre labels

• Credit
R&B/Early Rock n Roll

Ex: Ike Turner’s Kings of Rhythm – “Rocket 88” (1951)
- originally credited to “Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats”
  (JB was Ike’s sax player, and sang this song)

- Sun Records
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Rock n Roll song?
- Distorted guitar
Chuck Berry

• b. 1926, St. Louis, Missouri

• Chess Records

• First recording 1955

Ex: Chuck Berry – “Maybellene” (1955)

• Top 10 R&B and Pop
  – significance
Chuck Berry

Ex: Chuck Berry – “Johnny B. Goode” (1957)

• How is this blues? Or is it something else? (guit. demo)

• How is it different from the Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters songs we heard?

• John Lennon: “If you had to try and give rock ‘n’ roll another name, you might call it Chuck Berry”
Bo Diddley

• AKA Ellas McDaniel
• 1928-2008
• b. McComb, Mississippi

• Blues to rock n roll
• Chess

Ex: Bo Diddley – “I’m A Man” (1955)
• see lyrics
Bo Diddley

• The Bo Diddley Beat: Clave
  – Sub-Saharan Africa and Afro-Cuban music
  – demo

Ex: Bo Diddley – “Bo Diddley” (1955)
• Self-mythologizing

• Beatles and Stones
Early Rock and Roll

Ex: Bill Haley and his Comets
– “Rock Around the Clock” (1954/5)

• Similarities to blues?
• What’s different?
R&B/Early Rock and Roll

Ex: Elvis Presley – “Hound Dog” (1956)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMmljYkdr-w

• Racy?
• Solution/Humiliation?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMN-1nSQv3U

• Sun Records, Memphis
• Black and White influences

• Why is Elvis referred to as the “King of Rock and Roll”?
• Significance?
American Folk Blues Festival


• First time in Europe for most performers

• New audiences in the UK, Germany, France

• The British Invasion groups helped popularize the blues in both the US and Europe
Blues in the UK, 1960s

Ex: The Rolling Stones – “Little Red Rooster” (1964)
• Credit given by Stones

• Blues and the British Invasion
• Blues: US to UK to US

Ex: Muddy Waters – “You Need Love” (1962)
• 1985 settlement

• Eric Clapton, Yardbirds, Beatles, Animals, etc.
1980s - Present

- Blues in all forms continue to be made
- Preservation bands

- 1980s: SRV, MTV

Video Ex: Stevie Ray Vaughan – “Mary Had a Little Lamb” (1983)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7umozLclDY
Fat Possum Records

- 1992-present
- Oxford, Mississippi
- Delta and other styles

- Junior Kimbrough, RL Burnside, T-Model Ford

Ex: Junior Kimbrough – “I Cried Last Night” (2006)
- Black Keys

- Non-Fat Possum, 21st Century blues: Gary Clarke Jr.