Hello Black, Brown and Beige FIG student…

And welcome to the University of Oregon and your Freshman Interest Group, Black, Brown, and Beige! This FIG consists of three courses, which are Introduction to African American Literature ENG 241, History of Jazz (1900-1950) MUJ 350, and College Connections MUS 199.

The FIG is a residential challenge FIG, meaning that you will be living in a residence hall with me and the other members of your FIG. The residential challenge FIG also entails that the FIG has an upper division class (MUJ 350). This upper division class is nothing to be worried about, though, considering you will be in this class with many useful resources to help you succeed such as your professors, your peers, and me. Since we will be living in the same residence hall together please feel free to come by my room any time to ask questions or just talk.

I am a junior from San Jose, California majoring in both psychology and Spanish. I love both of these majors, but I also enjoy many other things such as expressing myself through art, writing, and music, I love jazz music among many other genres. I also have other hobbies such as, playing sports, rock climbing, backpacking, cooking, and reading.

Dr. Mark Whalan, the professor for African American Literature, is a very laid-back and casual man who has just moved to Eugene from Britain, where he taught American literature and culture at the University of Exeter. He has written a couple books, his most prominent being *The Greater War and the Culture of the Negro*.

Professor Carl Woideck is the professor for the History of Jazz (1900-1950). He is very funny and always has interesting personal anecdotes to give during his lectures. He is a jazz musician who plays the tenor and soprano saxophones, and really enjoys Brazilian music and the Beatles.

Something very important to know about the FIG is that you have mandatory summer readings for this FIG, which are: a story from your African American Literature textbook (*The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, second ed.* Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay ISBN 978-0-393-97778-3) by James Baldwin called “Sonnies Blues” (pp. 1728-1750), and readings from the book *Living with Music: Ralph Ellison’s Jazz Writings* (ISBN 10 0375760237) “On Bird, Bird Watching and Jazz”, “Living with Music”, “Homage to Duke Ellington on His Birthday”, and “The Golden Age, Time Past.”
When we meet face-to-face during IntroDucktion, **Friday, September 21, 2012**, we will go to the lecture hall **Columbia 150 at 10:00am** for a meeting about your freshman year. **Please be on time to this event.** That following Sunday, **September 23, 2012**, we will be going as a FIG to the University Convocation, which is the first event of the school year. Do not forget to have your **Student Handbook** at all these places and throughout your freshman year, and **REMEMBER TO DO YOUR SUMMER READING.**

Finally, I need your email address, so please email me that before September 21, 2012, and tell me a little bit about yourself and any questions you may have about the FIG, college or whatever you are curious about. Dr. Whalan, Professor Woideck and myself are all excited to meet you this fall. Have a great rest of the summer and we will see you soon.

Sincerely,

Raphael Marcus Hidalgo, Dr. Whalan, and Professor Woideck