

Music Appreciation

MUMH2040.001 (5202)

SAGE 116

MWF 11.10AM-12.30PM

Instructor Contact

Name: April L. Prince

Office Location: MU319

Office Hours: WF 9.45am-10.45am

Email: april.prince@unt.edu

If you have a private question, please contact me via email, and I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner) and around 48 hours on weekends. In other words, I likely won't return emails on Saturday or Sundays, but I'll get up early on Monday morning and be sure to get back to you! I'm very quick with email, and that is my preferred method of contact. If you email a TA, please copy me on the email!

During most workdays, I'm also available via Microsoft Teams Chat. You can also chat me, and I can respond if I'm available!

Teaching Assistants Contact

Name: Luca Nardelli

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Name: Vianey Rivera

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Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging.

Course Description

This is a creative arts core course! *Music Appreciation* focuses on the appreciation and analysis of music as a creative work of the human imagination. In so doing, this course develops critical listening and analytical approaches to all kinds of music.

The course is designed so that you can be successful without a background in music. A musical performance background (reading music notation) is also not a prerequisite. The main requirement is a willingness to listen carefully, listen wider, and to reflect on those experiences.

Course Structure

MUMH2040 is divided into four big units, which are broken up into weekly course materials and assignments. Canvas holds the learning objectives and detailed schedule for each week.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- define and recognize “traditional” and “humanistic” musical elements and how they intersect and diverge
- explore the concepts of musical taste and analyze music both in and outside of your taste boundaries
- create a variety of creative musical pieces that explore course concepts
- listen to a wide range of musical examples across all kinds of genres, styles, and historical periods

UNT Creative Arts Core Objectives

- Through historical documents, contemporary scholarship, and musical examples you will cultivate the critical thinking skills needed to introduce problems and questions; present, interpret, and analyze a variety of source material; consider the context of a variety of source material; develop arguments with a logical progression; and present conclusions and their implications. (Core LO: Critical Thinking)
- You will develop communication skills by writing and speaking about music with a clear statement of purpose, organization, developed content, and accuracy. (Core LO: Communication)
- By exploring music both in and outside of your musical taste, you will learn social responsibility by acknowledging and assuming diverse cultural/intercultural perspectives; exploring aspects of civic responsibility; and reflecting personally on the ability to understand, recognize, and even challenge notions of cultural bias. (Core LO: Social Responsibility)
- As team members, you will be asked to contribute, prepare, collaborate, foster constructive team climates, and respond to feedback constructively related to the music and sources studied in this course. (Core LO: Teamwork)

Materials

The required text is:

1. Ben Ratliff, *Every Song Ever: Twenty Ways to Listen in an Age of Musical Plenty*. New York: Picador, 2016.
This text is available in the Barnes & Noble Bookstore for around \$8 - \$10.

All other course materials will be made available via Canvas as PDFs or links to UNT’s library databases.

You will need your textbooks by week 4. This text is also on reserve in the music library, which is located on the fourth floor of Willis Library!

Course Requirements

* You can find all assignment guidelines and assignment details on Canvas in the Introduction Module.

Assignment	Point Breakdown	Total Points for Category
In-Class Activities		400 (40%)
Individual Participation Activities iClicker 25 submissions x 3 points (75 points) Individual Readiness Assurance Tests (iRats) Due during class via iClicker (70 points) <i>You'll have more opportunities than you need to earn these required points. Missed iClicker and iRat quizzes cannot be made up!</i>	125 points	
Team Based Learning Activities (TBL) Due during class tRats + Application Question Submissions & Discussion Reflections <i>You'll have more opportunities than you need to earn these required points. Missed class sessions cannot be made up!</i> Core Learning Objective: Civil Discourse	250 points	
TBL Group Assessments via Teammates 2 x 12.5 points each Core Learning Objective: Teamwork	25 points	
Quizzes & Exams		25 (.25%)
Course Overview Quiz	25 points	
Individual Assignments		400 (40%)
Album Reviews 2 Reviews @ 50 points each Core Learning Objectives: Critical Thinking & Communication	100 points	
Ambient Soundscape Project - Media File @ 75 points - Listening Room Share Out @ 25 points - Planning Tool & Rationale @ 50 points	150 points	

Genre Bending Project • Media File @ 75 points • Listening Room Share Out @ 25 points • Planning Tool & Rationale @ 50 points	150 points	
Final Team Collaboration		175 (17.5%)
The Perfect Moment: Team EP & Listening Room • In-Class Workdays (2 x 50 points each) • Curated EP (8 tracks + 2 featured tracks): 25 points • Album cover + liner notes: 50	175 points	

Grading

The grade of “A” will be assigned for excellent academic work. A grade of “B” will be assigned for good work. A grade of “C” will be assigned for fair work. A grade of “D” will be assigned for work that minimally passes. A grade of “F” will be assigned for failing work. (<http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/understand-your-grade-report>) Grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

900-1000 A 800-899 B 700-799 C 600-699 D 0-599 F

Course Schedule

Canvas maintains a more detailed schedule that includes assigned readings and specific due dates, but the schedule below provides a general outline of topics and assignment dates for the semester.

If there is ever a discrepancy between this schedule and Canvas, please follow the due dates and topics in Canvas!

Week/Module	Topic & Reading	Assignment
Module 1 Weeks 1-3	Course Organization & Team-Based Learning Musical Elements Defining Genre Defining Western Art Music	In-Class Activities Course Overview Quiz (Week 1)
Module 2 Weeks 4-7	Expanding Elements: Ratliff Set 1 • Repetition • Slowness • Transmission • Quiet/Silence/Intimacy • Single Tone	In-Class Activities Album Review 1 (Week 5) Creative Project 1 (Week 7)

Module 3 Weeks 8-11	Expanding Elements: Ratliff Set 2 • Audio Space • Wasteful Authority • Density • Virtuosity • Improvisation • Discrepancy • Linking	In-Class Activities TBL Teammates Assessment 1 (Week 8) Album Review 2 (Week 9) Creative Project 2 (Week 11)
Module 4 Weeks 12-15	Expanding Elements: Ratliff Set 3 • The Perfect Moment • Memory & Historical Truth • Community & Exclusivity	In-Class Activities Final Team EP & Listening Room Project (Weeks 14 & 15) TBL Teammates Assessment 2 (Week 15)

Course Policies

Technology Policy

Portions of class time will be designated as “technology free,” so that we can engage with concepts on our own terms without distractions and technological interference. We will use both hard-copy and electronic reporting, depending on the concepts at hand. During technology-free class times, you will be asked to put away all devices so you can be fully present and engaged.

Information Literacy

A portion of the assignments in this course (including reading assignments) are intended to have students engage with and access UNT Library resources. Such resources may include, but are not limited to, primary source databases, UNT special collections, and ebooks, with the goal of learning how to independently seek out, assess, and interpret primary and secondary source material available in the UNT Library databases.

Statement on Use of AI: Documented Use

For each assignment you must include the following worksheet at the conclusion of your assignment. You can find this worksheet in Canvas.

In this course, students shall give credit to AI tools whenever used, even if only to generate ideas rather than usable text or illustrations. When using AI tools on assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange, highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used (e.g. ChatGPT private subscription version, Claude free version, Copilot, etc.), (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, turns of phrase, elements of text, long stretches of text, lines of argument, pieces of evidence, maps of the conceptual territory, illustrations of key concepts, etc.); (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer’s block, to stimulate thinking, to handle mounting stress, to clarify prose, to translate text, to experiment for fun, etc.).

If you submit a rationale that has clearly invented Ratliffian elements, concepts, and/or hallucinated quotations, you will receive no credit for your work.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- [Free iclicker account](#)
- [Free Spotify account](#)
- [Microsoft Office Suite](#)
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading PDFs
- Interacting with online music platforms (Spotify/Youtube)
- Using an in-class response system (iClicker)
- Accessing UNT Library Databases

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Assignment Policy

Students can find all assignment information, submission guidelines, and due dates in the Introduction Module in Canvas.

Instructor Feedback

Due to the class size, I will return feedback on all written assignments within two weeks of the due date. If I see that I will be unable to return your feedback within that timeframe, I will post an announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected.

Late Work

The album reviews and creative assignments have a 3-day grace period in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties or life emergencies. That means students can submit **their assignments** up to 3 days after the due date without penalty.

Of course, if something unforeseen happens and you need additional time after the 3 days, please contact me (not a TA!) directly **before the assignment is due** regarding an extension.

Late work will not be accepted for TBL activities (RATS/Application Questions) or iClicker activities, as students will complete more assignments than needed to earn full points.

Attendance Policy

We will take attendance regularly, especially to monitor in-class team activities. We will use iClicker with the geo-location enabled, so that you can check into class.

Should you miss class, you cannot earn in-class assignment points or iclicker points. You also should not submit iclicker if you absent, as that is academic dishonesty. If we discover you are completing iclicker questions outside of class, you will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Being punctual indicates our respect for others. Please arrive before class begins to find a seat, prepare your materials, and connect with your peers. More than two instances of tardiness will result in an absence from class. TAs will monitor tardiness and attendance.

Because we will complete more in-class assignments than required to earn the necessary points, it is not possible to make up missed in-class assignments. In other words, it's okay to miss a few classes here and there – you'll be able to make up those points. As a general rule, you can miss around 2 weeks of class (or 6 class periods) without penalty.

Please note that a substantial portion of your grade comes from attendance and participation. If you miss 13 or more class periods, you forfeit all in-class activity points for the entirety of the semester, which means you forfeit a total of 400 points. The total points you can earn will then be 650 points, which is a D in the course.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus can be modified. All modifications will be announced via Canvas and explained in writing.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment;

and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

Link: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Access to Information – Eagle Connect

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

Link: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

Link: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar & Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026

See: [Spring 2026 Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

Link: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Counseling and Testing

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

Add/Drop Policy

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Student Resources

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

Care Team

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>