Music as Politics

MUMH3200.001 (9479)
ENV130
MWF 11.00-11.50AM

Instructor Contact

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Teaching Assistant Contact

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Communication Expectations:

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. 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!

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. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

This course investigates the relationship between music, activism, and politics through a wide range of historical and geographical contexts. Perspectives may include, but are not limited to: musical nationalism, censorship, cultural policy making, war and peace, the cultural industries, and/or musical activism and social movements.

The course is designed so that students 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

MUMH3200 is designed in several big topics. These topics range from specific piece analysis to larger issues. Canvas holds the learning objectives and detailed schedule for each week.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

UNT Creative Arts Core Objectives

-   Students will articulate how music engages with political ideologies and practices. To most effectively examine these musical issues, students will introduce problems and questions; present, interpret and analyze historical documents and contemporary scholarship related to the music being studied in this course; consider the context and credibility of this source material; develop and present arguments related to music and activism; and present conclusions, while assessing their implications. (**Core LO: Critical Thinking**)
-   Students will evaluate and communicate how political ideologies have influenced all realms of music and media. To communicate effectively, students will be asked to present a central idea; organize material cohesively; develop content; and apply rules of Standard English in their arguments. (**Core LO: Communication**)
-   Students will identify elements of social responsibility across all kinds of musics. In so doing, students will acknowledge and apply diverse perspectives to various musical genres/songs; acknowledge and apply civic responsibility to various musical genres/songs; and articulate insights about personal attitudes, behaviors, or beliefs as they relate to various musical genres/songs (**Core LO: Social Responsibility**)
-   Working as a part of a team, students will participate in frequent in-class team activities and a final creative team project. Throughout these activities, students will reflect frequently on how best to contribute to a group; prepare and collaborate with a team; foster a constructive team climate; and respond to feedback constructively. (**Core LO: Teamwork**)

Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All course materials will be made available via Canvas as PDFs or links to UNT's library databases.

Course Requirements

* You can find all assignment guidelines and details on Canvas.

Assignment	Point Breakdown	Total Points for Category
In-Class Activities		**375 (37.5%)**
iClicker 35 submissions x 3 points (105 points) Individual Readiness Assurance Tests (iRats) Due during class via iClicker 70 points *You'll have **more** opportunities than you need to earn these required points. Missed iClicker and irat quizzes cannot be made up!*	150 points	
Team Activities Regular Attendance TBL Team Readiness Assurance Tests (tRats) TBL Application Questions Due during class *You'll have **more** opportunities than you need to earn these required points. Missed class sessions cannot be made up!*	200 points	

TBL Group Assessments 2 x 12.5 points each	25	
Quizzes		**25 (0.25%)**
Course Overview Quiz	25	
Individual Assignments		**400 (40%)**
Write (or Revise) a Protest Song Historical Sheet Music Analysis Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	100 100 200	
Campaign Advertisements – Team Project		**200 (20%)**
Final Team Creative Project In-Class Workdays @ 50 points (4 @ 12.5 points each) Video Advertisements 2 @ 50 points Short Narrative Overview @ 25 points Final Project Team Assessment @ 25 points	200	

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	Topic, Assigned Course Materials	Assignment
1	**Introduction** Course Structure Team-Based Learning Orientation	Course Overview Quiz due Sunday @ 11.59pm TBL Activities
2 & 3	Philosophical Perspectives & Musical Elements	TBL Activities
4 & 5	Music as Protest	TBL Activities Write (or Revise) a Protest Song (Week 5)
6 & 7	Music & War	TBL Activities TBL Team Evaluation
8 & 9	Music & Censorship	Exam 1 (Monday of Week 8) TBL Activities
10 & 11	Music & Racial Politics	TBL Activities Historical Sheet Music Analysis Assignment
12 & 13	Music & the U.S. Campaign Trail	TBL Activities
14 & 15	Final Team Campaign Ads – In-class workdays& Draft Screenings	Exam 2 (Monday of Week 14) Makeup Exam – April 28 @ 7.30am Final Project Planning Sessions TBL Team Evaluation

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: Prohibited Use

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like [Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini] is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003).

If you submit work where AI has generated incorrect knowledge (chapters/quotes from texts, for example, that are hallucinated) you will receive **no credit** for your work and there will be no recourse to revise and resubmit.

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)

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)
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)

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.

Makeup Exam Policy

In the event you need to miss an exam, there is no need to notify me. The make-up exam period is scheduled for **April 28 from 8-9.30am in MUS301**. This is the only opportunity to make up exams. You can complete up to two missed exams during this 1.5-hour period.

Late Work

All individual 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 350 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