



University of North Texas College of Music



## **WIND STUDIES**

MUGC 4890

### **STUDIES IN MUSIC: MARCHING METHODS**

Spring Semester 2026

Monday/Wednesday

9:00am–9:50pm

COM 290

Instructor: Amy Woody

Contact Information: amy.woody@unt.edu – (940) 565-3215 (Wind Studies Office)

Office Hours: MPACX 110B, by appointment.

Teaching Fellow: Melinda Coleman, MelindaColeman@my.unt.edu

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a survey of skills and philosophical topics necessary for the successful design, administration, and management of the high school marching band program as part of a total instrumental music program in the public schools. Students will be exposed to the various techniques used in producing a superior performing ensemble that also adheres to the fundamental musical objectives of a quality band program. Major topics for discussion may include but are not limited to show design, charting, marching and maneuvering, rehearsal planning, equipment selection, personnel management, auxiliary units, percussion, budgeting, and more. Materials from this course are pulled from a variety of professionals and resources in the field, and hopefully provides a diverse approach to the vast array of pedagogical approaches.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the completion of this course, the student who has successfully completed the course will be able to accomplish the following:

- Understand, define, and implement an appropriate approach to visual and musical ensemble fundamental training.
- Understand and implement an appropriate and full-developed design process for an academic ensemble.
- Outline appropriate goals and benchmarks and understand the appropriate implementation and timelines needed to foster a successful season.
- Understand and demonstrate the basic skills in marching drill design utilizing computer-based charting applications (Pyware/UDB).
- Plan implement for basic season operational needs including but not limited to transportation, facilities, communications, equipment, scheduling, finances, etc.
- Understand and demonstrate various successful and differentiated rehearsal techniques.
- Understand, collaborate, and appropriately communicate regarding auxiliary and percussion units in the program.
- Outline and communicate appropriate budget, band parent, and administrative planning philosophies.
- Evaluate situations and solutions pertaining to first-time employment scenarios.



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### COURSE ORGANIZATION

Each week in the course will be an exploration of the following topics and include lectures, guest speakers, and projects related to the following:

- Philosophy and Foundations of the Marching Band
- Considerations for Learning Styles for Marching Band
- Instructional Techniques for the Wind Section
- Considerations for Percussion and Colorguard as a Marching Director
- Tenets of a Successful Visual Program
- Rehearsal Techniques
- Understanding of Design Trends and Production planning
- Introduction to Arranging and Drill Writing
- Band Boosters, Budgeting, and Fundraising
- Planning for understanding adjudication and defining “success”

### COURSE ASSESSMENT (1000 points total)

- Class attendance and participation (150, 5 points/class)\*
- Vision Board/Philosophy of Marching Program (50)
- Budget Build (50)
- Sample of Marching Band Arrangement (100)
- Sample of Drill Design (100)
- Sample of Production Sheet/Count Sheet (50)
- Wind Fundamentals Packet (50)
- Sample of yearly calendar/planning document (50)
- Parent Presentation: Google Slides/Powerpoint (200)
- Final design portfolio (200)

### \*ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Attendance is expected for all scheduled classes. Level of engagement and participation will be rewarded via daily credit, with the assumption that students are present and attentive. Excused absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are best communicated in advance. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation credit. In addition to this, excessive absences will result in a lowering of the final grade as follows:

2 No effect

3-4 reduction of 1 letter grade

5-6 reduction of 2 letter grades

7+ grade of WF or F



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### COURSE MATERIALS

All readings and software will be provided by the instructor as the course ensues. Students will need to have technology, ideally a laptop, to run and manipulate Pyware. While this is available in the lab, it will be significantly more advantageous to license the software on your own personal portable computer.

### SAMPLE ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

A: Professional and on-time presentation of materials per instructions. Concept or adherence to prompt is clear and appropriate.

B: Professional and on-time presentation of materials per instructions. Concept or adherence to prompt is clear and appropriate, with minor errors related to content or presentation.

C: Professional presentation of materials per instructions. Concept or adherence to prompt is unclear or inappropriate, with significant errors related to content or presentation. A lack of preparedness is evident.

D: Presentation of materials per instructions, but professionalism and quality is lacking or incomplete. Concept or adherence to prompt is unclear or inappropriate, with significant errors related to content or presentation. A lack of preparedness is evident.

F: Did not complete the assignment as per instructions and is presented in an unacceptable manner.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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.

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

### STUDENT BEHAVIOR



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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.

<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.

[eagleconnect.unt.edu/](https://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.

[disability.unt.edu](https://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 for Students

See: [Spring Academic Calendar Information](#)

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

### Semester Calendar, Spring 2026

See: [Spring Semester Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

### Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026

See above

### Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress



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### **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.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

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 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.

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

### **Graduates**

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. 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 you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

<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.

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



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### **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:

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

<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/spring-academic-calendar.html>

### **STUDENT RESOURCES**

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

<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.

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