

**Jazz Performance Fundamentals  
Course Syllabus for MUS 1131  
University of North Texas  
Fall 2025**

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**Goal:** To explore the history of jazz styles in both solo and ensemble jazz trombone, and how/when to implement them in the real world.

**Course Objective:** Students will learn to listen critically, develop skills to replicate various jazz styles, and delve deeply into the history of the instrument in jazz groups. The students will have both playing and research assignments that will allow them to explore areas of interest, while simultaneously being challenged by their peers in the group. This class will also replicate real life scenarios, such as reading sessions, arranging assignments, audition situations, giving research presentations and playing solo in front of their peers.

**Required Materials:** Students should expect to be responsible for obtaining any sheet music, CDs or Digital Audio Files, or books as assigned. Students should bring their instruments to class each and every class. Access to a working email account is required and signing up for a file sharing service (like Dropbox, Google Drive, etc) will allow the Instructor to share required and supplementary course materials with the student. No textbook will be required.

**Research Presentation (Fall):**

Each student will choose a classic big band trombone section to research, and give a presentation on at the end of each semester. This section should be one that is identified with a particular style, and mutually agreed on with the instructor. Students should plan to present a paper that articulates biographical information, musical information about the section, analyses of at least three (3) characteristics, as full of a lineage as possible (the members of that section), five (5) classic recordings by this section, three to five essential excerpts that help you to easily identify this section, and a description of why this was an important section to the development of the instrument in jazz music. Presentations will be 20 minutes in length.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to arrive at each class session on time. Tardiness will result in the lowering of the student's final grade by one third (A becomes A-, A- becomes B, etc) starting the third occurrence, and lowered by an additional one third for each subsequent occurrence. If the student will miss class, an email notifying the instructor is appreciated. Students may not make up missed mock auditions, presentations, etc.. Each unexcused absence after the first two will result in the final grade

lowered one letter (A becomes B, A- becomes B-, etc). Unexcused absences are any absences that are not excused by the Jazz Division, College of Music or University. Illness with a signed doctor's note is an acceptable excused absence.

Please Note: With notice, some classes may take place virtually on Zoom. You will be provided with a Link. Should you come down with symptoms of COVID, please plan to attend class via Zoom. Accommodations will be made to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible.

\*\*\* On May 13, 2020 the UNT Faculty Senate approved the following attendance policy as it relates to the current COVID-19 pandemic:

**COVID-19 impact on attendance**

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

**Grading:** Students will be graded based on their measured progress towards goals, overall preparedness, and execution of assigned materials.

- Attendance/Class Participation/ In-Class Quizzes/ Mock Auditions (50%)
- Assignment Preparedness and weekly tracking of assignments (25%)
- Final Presentation/Paper (25%)
  - *Format for Midterm and Final:* The midterm and final exams will be done from home, a practice room, etc. Students will receive the exam promptly at the beginning of class via Canvas and Email. The unedited (one continuous take) audio recording of the midterm and final will be due by the end of that class period. Emails should be time-stamped prior to the end of class. You may use your cell phone or another recording device for this.

**Course Outline:** This syllabus is subject to change, with notice.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class Topic / Activities</b>	<b>For Next Class / Assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mon 8/18</b>	<b>Course Overview</b>	<b>Bring 2 favorite jazz-trombone recordings with context: why it's your favorite, its historical importance, etc.</b>
	<b>Wed 8/20</b>	<b>Share Favorite Recordings; Active Listening Skills; Listening Journal</b>	<b>Keep a Listening Journal for 1 week.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Mon 8/25</b>	<b>Listening Journals review; Introduce Sound Concept Lecture; Major Triad Workout 2018 (4 triad types)</b>	<b>Sound Concept Worksheet; Shed Major Triad Workout 2018; begin 4-Types-of-Triads exercise.</b>
	<b>Wed 8/27</b>	<b>Review Triad Workouts</b>	<b>4-Types-of-Triad Workout (Aug, Maj, Min, Dim); Bebop Blues transcription (JJ Johnson "Hey Pete", with/without recording); Sound Concept Sheet DUE</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mon 9/ 1</b>	<b>No class (Labor Day)</b>	<b>—</b>
	<b>Wed 9/ 3</b>	<b>Play JJ Johnson "Hey Pete" chorus; identify ways to deepen feel; Sound Concept Sheets due via Canvas; begin Blues in 12 Keys</b>	<b>Continue Blues in 12 Keys practice.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Mon 9/ 8</b>	<b>Perform JJ Johnson transcription; focus on eighth-note flow; Triad workouts; Limitation exercises over blues (major triad → quarter notes; R3–R7; bebop scales &amp; flow)</b>	<b>—</b>
	<b>Wed 9/10</b>	<b>Review R3–R7 exercise, bebop scales &amp; flow; add improvising over blues (regular vs. jazz blues)</b>	<b>Prepare for "Blues in 12 Keys" quiz next Wednesday.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Mon 9/15</b>	<b>Early Swing: review Bennie Green "Why Do I Love You"; sight-read &amp; play excerpts</b>	<b>Listen to Early Swing-Era big bands; note sound, articulation, vibrato, ornaments, 8th-note feel, uniqueness.</b>

	Wed 9/17	Blues in 12 Keys Quiz; review Bennie Green; discuss Swing-Era chart reading suggestions	Continue listening journal on Swing-Era bands (see above).
6	Mon 9/22	Bennie Green solo performances ("Why Do I Love You" style); Tommy Dorsey day: sound study	Listen to Tommy Dorsey style recordings.
	Wed 9/24	Practice Tommy Dorsey excerpts; sight-read Swing-Era charts	—
7	Mon 9/29	Student performances: "Song of India" & "Getting Sentimental" in Dorsey style; continue sight-reading; midterm review	—
	Wed 10/1	Midterm review: Bennie Green solo & improvisation; "Getting Sentimental"; Blues in 12 Keys improv; walking bass lines; Swing-Era chart characteristics	—
8	Mon 10/6	MIDTERM	—
	Wed 10/8	Prep for Basie Week: discuss Count Basie sound study	Listen to Count Basie Orchestra; note sound, articulation, vibrato, ornaments, 8th-note feel, uniqueness.
9	Mon 10/13	Basie Week: discussion & listening	Listen to Duke Ellington Orchestra; note same criteria.
	Wed 10/15	More Basie	—
10	Mon 10/20	Ellington Week: discussion & listening	Listen to key plunger-style players: Al Grey, Tricky Sam Nanton, Lawrence Brown, Steve Turre, Wycliffe Gordon.
	Wed 10/22	More Ellington	—
11	Mon 10/27	Plunger techniques workshop	Practice plunger techniques; solo with plunger over a blues; share Lawrence Brown "Sweet and Pungent".

	<b>Wed 10/29</b>	<b>Review plunger work; check in on "Sweet and Pungent" solo; apply to blues improv</b>	—
<b>12</b>	<b>Mon 11/3</b>	<b>"Sweet and Pungent" solo due; blues-with-plunger due; review plunger; introduce Boneology (early JJ Johnson bebop lines); play Boneology</b>	<b>Listen to, play along with, and mimic JJ Johnson's "Boneology" solo.</b>
	<b>Wed 11/5</b>	<b>Review early JJ Johnson bebop lines; play Boneology; review plunger techniques</b>	—
<b>13</b>	<b>Mon 11/10</b>	<b>Hear "Boneology" student performances</b>	<b>Review all semester materials; bring questions; Presentations DUE next week</b>
	<b>Wed 11/12</b>	<b>General semester review</b>	—
<b>14</b>	<b>Mon 11/17</b>	<b>FINAL PRESENTATIONS</b>	—
	<b>Wed 11/19</b>	<b>FINAL PRESENTATIONS</b>	—
	<b>Thu 11/26</b>	<b>No class (Thanksgiving Break)</b>	—
<b>15</b>	<b>Mon 12/1</b>	<b>FINAL IN CLASS</b>	—

#### 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.

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](http://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/](http://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](http://disability.unt.edu) (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **Diversity and Belonging**

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity, and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies, and use of university facilities.

## **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: [Registration Information](#)

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

## **Academic Calendar, Fall 2023**

See: [Fall 2023 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

## **Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2023**

See above

## **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.

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 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>

### 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.

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 whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. 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 issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](#)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

[Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu)

### **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-registration-guide>

### **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>

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

### **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>