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| **unt-university-of-north-texas-logo03-500x273.png** | **MUJS 1131/1132-505**  **Jazz Performance Fundamentals**  **Course Syllabus**  Brad Leali, Professor of Jazz Saxophone  Office: MU330  Office Hours: as posted or by appt  E-mail: [brad.leali@unt.edu](mailto:brad.leali@unt.edu) |

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| **COURSE SCHEDULE:**  **1131/1132-505**  Tuesday/Thursday 1-1:50pm  Location: MU262  **TEXTBOOK:**  Modern Reading Text in 4/4, Louis Bellson  Charlie Parker Omnibook | cannonball.jpg |

**Course Description**

The students will study techniques and concepts necessary in developing an understanding of the musical atmosphere pertaining to the jazz idiom. This course will also include the historical maturation of the saxophone as used in the jazz setting.

**Course Objectives**

This course will provide the following:

1. Prepare the students with the necessary fundamental needed to perform Jazz music.
2. Teach the students the significance of the role of saxophone in the jazz medium.
3. Teach methods that will aid in the development of an efficient practice, rehearsal and performance routine. This course is designed to provide the student with opportunities to explore many different aspects that are exclusive to the development of a stable foundation in the study, performance and teaching of jazz fundamentals, specific to the area of saxophone.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Detect the identity, performance and interpretation of specific styles concerning the different eras of Jazz music, specific to saxophone.
2. Explain the importance of the saxophone and how it relates to the small and large jazz ensembles as well as a solo instrument. They will also be able to demonstrate these roles pertaining to each assemblage.
3. Discuss and explain the role of the rhythm section and how it relates to the soloist
4. Rationalize the importance of practicing, rehearsing & performing in a professional manner
5. Explain the importance of specific skills such as intonation, blending and balance and how it pertains to solo/ensemble playing.
6. Identify and elaborate on the musical contributions, such as repertoire and style of some of the celebrated as well as not so celebrated jazz figures, both historical and present-day figures.

**Methods for Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes**

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through:

1. Quizzes (written and aural)
2. Performances in class as well as the Jazz Departmentals
3. Written reports and biographies

**Course Requirements**

1. Outside of this, it is MANDATORY for each student is to attend Jazz Saxophone Departmentals which meet each Thursday in room 262 from 12 pm – 12:50 pm.
2. Students are expected to attend all classes on time.
3. Students are expected to attend all Jazz Departmentals on time, unless you have a pre-approved university class conflict.
4. Students are required to perform transcriptions along with the recording in no less than 3 Jazz Departmentals per semester. *Failure to do so will result in the lowering of the final grade by a full letter grade.* (Any students wanting to perform something other than a transcription need to meet with Professor Leali for pre-approval.)
5. Requirements for transcriptions:
   1. Students are required to transcribe the melody intro and outro.
   2. Material that is transcribed must be at least one chorus of improvisation.
   3. All transcriptions must be memorized
6. Students are expected to practice all assignments given in class.
7. Students are expected to listen to recordings, DVD’s etc. of artists studied in class.
8. Students are expected to attend as many live performances of all styles as possible.
9. Students are expected to act professional at all times. This includes no use of cell phones during class times, unless needed for an assignment.

**Attendance and Assignment Policy**

Make up assignments will only be offered with an official excused absence, which must be received no later than two days of the missed assignment. Failure to do so will result in the grade of an “F”.

**Grading Criteria**

Grading is based on attendance, preparation and performance of assignments, preparation and performance of finals, and overall attitude. Using a scale of A=4 points, B=3 points, C=2 points, D=1 point, F=0, daily grades in each area below are weighted, totaled, and then averaged to determine the final semester grade.

* Attendance: weight of 1 *(NOTE: an unexcused absence results in lowering of grade by .5)*
* Attitude: weight of 1
* Assignments: weight of 1 each
* Final exams are in multiple sections, each section with a weight of 2

**Final semester grades are as follows: A >/= 3.2-4.0, B >/= 2.2 - 3.1, C >/=1.2 – 2.1, D >/= 0.1 – 1.1, F </= <.1.**

*Example:*

1. *Attendance (This has a weight of 1. If the student had perfect attendance, that would result in 4 points x 1 weight = 4 points)*
2. *Attitude (This has a weight of 1. If the student had a great attitude throughout the semester, that would result in 4 points x 1 weight = 4 points)*
3. *Assignments (The number of assignments in each semester varies. Each assignment has a weight of 1. If there were six assignments in a semester and a student had an A on each assignment, that would result in 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 24 points)*
4. *Final (If the final exam is in two sections, each has a weight of 2. If the student got an A on both sections of the final, that would result in 4 points x weight of 2 for each part = 8 points for each part = 16 points total for final.) Total points received for this example = 48. Total points possible for this example = 48. 48 points received divided by 48 total possible points = 100% A*

**\* STUDENTS RECEIVING A CUMULATIVE AVERAGE GRADE OF ‘C’ OR LOWER IN ALL OF YOUR COURSES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO THE NEXT CLASS SEQUENCE.**

**\*\*updated for Fall 2025\*\***

**Course Syllabi Information**

**For complete information on course syllabi requirements, please see the** [university's policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

**(**<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049> **)**

**In addition to the information below, course syllabi should minimally include the following information:**

* Course Title and Course Number
* Course Objectives
* Instructor Office Hours
* Attendance Expectations
* Grading Criteria
* Statement on timely return of student work, particularly final exams or final projects
* Statement that students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class
* For Faculty, Teaching Fellows and Adjuncts:
  + All undergraduate syllabi for lecture courses are required by law to be available to the public. **At UNT, undergraduate syllabi for lecture courses should be uploaded into the Faculty Information System by the 7th class day.**
    - To access the Faculty Information System, go to your my.unt home page. Under the Faculty Tab, click on Faculty Information System.
  + UNT requires that all graduate course syllabi to be uploaded into FIS.

***Rather than including the text for the information below, it is also an option to include the links in course syllabi and review the information on the first day of class.***

**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](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)

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](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/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](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

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](https://disability.unt.edu/)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://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: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

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

**Academic Calendar, Fall 2025**

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html)

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

**Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025**

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

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](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See:  [Mental Health Resources](https://disparities.unt.edu/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](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)

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

**JAZZ CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FALL 2025**

Concert attendance is an extraordinary opportunity to support your colleagues, learn from observing guest artists, and experience creative music that informs your future artistic self. This is an assessed component of your Lab Band Course. All undergraduate jazz majors in a jazz lab band are required to attend a select series of Jazz Studies concerts each semester. Each unexcused absence from a required Jazz Studies concert will result in a half letter grade deduction from your Lab Band grade. If conflicts arise with the classical ensembles at the Murchison, we will coordinate with Dr. Trachsel to ensure that no student is placed in a difficult position when selecting which concert to attend.

Undergraduate Jazz Studies majors must either swipe their student ID or scan a QR code in the lobby at least **fifteen minutes before** the concert begins. The check-in table will close five minutes prior, and you won't be able to check in after that. After the concert ends, unlike the Conducting and Ensembles Division policy, you won't need to swipe your ID again. We trust everyone will stay for the entire concert rather than doing the second swipe immediately. Here are the dates for the required Jazz Studies concerts for Fall 2025.

**PERFORMANCES Date Time Venue**

* Latin Jazz Lab Fall Concert on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 8:00 pm in Voertman Hall
* Jazz Strings Fall Concert scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2025, at 8:00 pm in Voertman CH.
* Two- and Three-O’Clock LB Fall Concert on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 8:00 pm in Voertman Hall
* Jazz Singers Fall Concert on Friday, November 14, 2025, only required to attend Jazz Singers at 8:00PM (5:30 p.m. West End, then Third Street, Avenue C, Jazz Singers at 8:00)
* One O’Clock Fall Concert Monday, November 17, 2025, 8:00 pm Voertman CH (Pasquale Grasso, Ticketed event)
* Any Faculty Recitals that may not be scheduled yet TBD