



**MUCM 3550/5550 JCM**  
**Jazz Chamber Music**  
**Course Syllabus**

**SYLLABUS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS SUPPLEMENT**  
**INSTRUCTOR - Professor Brad Leali [brad.leali@unt.edu](mailto:brad.leali@unt.edu)**

**Course Description:** The Jazz Combo program provides students with the opportunity to rehearse and perform both new and established works in the repertory of Jazz and the American songbook. The techniques of jazz improvisation, jazz style characteristics, and elements of formal jazz structure will be studied. This course is open by audition with consent of the director.

**Course Objectives:** The main objective of this course is to help each participant achieve the competencies necessary to become a well-rounded, career-minded musician. The goal of the Jazz Chamber Music program at UNT is to develop poised, independent musicians who demonstrate technical competence, an understanding of styles, and a working knowledge of the literature for the small ensemble. The student, upon successful completion of the required course of study, will have developed the skills to teach themselves or others these very concepts.

**Course Requirements:** The Jazz Combos will meet for one rehearsal per week with the coach and two rehearsals without the coach (a total of 3 rehearsals). The Student Coordinator of the group will act as leader during these required rehearsals. One of the two un-coached rehearsals will occur between the JCM hours of 4-4:50 on Mondays through Fridays and has been scheduled on behalf of the group (see Canvas for more info). The second un-coached rehearsal is to be scheduled by the Student Coordinator on the band's behalf.

**Attendance:** Active participation at all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and specified other events is required. Rehearsals missed without prior approval, or legitimate reason will affect your grade. If an illness occurs shortly before a rehearsal, the student must notify the Student Coordinator via phone or text. You are to find a sub to ensure the rehearsal session occurs. Keep in mind that subbing in a small group is quite different than within a Lab Band. You should always have written music in the case that you are sick, so please take concise notes for your potential sub.

**Rehearsal Preparation:** Be on time and warmed up for rehearsals and performances. Have with you all the music, necessary equipment, and a pencil for markings. Excellent preparation is expected.

**Repertoire:** The Jazz Combo will perform a variety of materials throughout the semester. These will include but not be limited to transcriptions, original works, student compositions, and standard repertoire for the ensemble.

**Combo Makeup and Formation:** Each grouping of students within Jazz Chamber Music will be comprised of a four-piece rhythm (piano, bass, guitar, drumset or percussion) and four-piece front line sections (brass, woodwinds, vocalists, strings, vibraphone). If there is not sufficient instrumental representation by enrollment to meet this standard, then alternative substitutions will be considered.

The full-time faculty who instruct the course will assign students to their Combos and make determinations of who the Student Coordinator will be as well as their mentor coaches. These decisions will be made in collaboration with studio faculty across the Division of Jazz Studies and will take lab band auditions into account. Performing in a Lab band is required to participate in Jazz Chamber Music. Only in rare cases will a student be cleared to participate in JCM without Lab Band participation. The student must petition the Division Chair and appropriate studio instructors for exceptional consideration.

#### **Course Learning Goals and Expectations:**

- The student will demonstrate the analytical and aural skills to actively and skillfully apply and perform the repertory of the ensemble.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction by successfully working musical problems in performance.
- Students will demonstrate the technical skills requisite for artistic self-expression within the small jazz combo.
- Students will demonstrate the ability of self-directed learning through improved performance on ensemble music due to private practice.
- Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills sufficient to work as a musically literate citizen in the role of a leader and collaboration with others.
- Students will demonstrate the professional ethics necessary to work in partnership with others in the ensemble.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to work professionally and collaboratively with diverse groups and individuals in the combo.
- An essential learning goal of the small jazz ensemble is to provide current and professionally accepted instruction in jazz performance and pedagogy using the medium of the “Small group or Jazz Combo.” Coaching focuses on Improvisation, musicality, and creativity.

**Educational Outcomes:** Students will demonstrate proper standards of rehearsal etiquette and successfully complete scheduled concerts throughout the semester.

**Assessment:** The following factors will be considered in awarding a final grade for each semester.

- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances
- Preparation of assigned music
- Attitude and communication

An unexcused absence from a required rehearsal will result in a lowering of the final grade. An unexcused absence from a required performance will result in a grade of an F for the semester. No exceptions.

**GRADES:**

*The grading scale is: A = 89.5-100; B = 79.5-89.4; C = 69.5-79.4; D = 59.5-69.4; F = 59.4 and below*

**Performances:** Each combo will participate in multiple performances throughout the semester (see performance schedule above).

The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus with proper notification.

**\*\*updated for Spring 2026\*\***

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.***

### **DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

### **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)

### **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**

[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.

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 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/spring-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>