



MUAC 3532-700

MUJS 5532-700

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(Jazz Senior Recital Capstone) MUJS 4720-700

Jazz Saxophone

Course Syllabus Fall/Spring

Brad Leali, Professor of Jazz Saxophone

Office: MU330

Office Hours: as posted or by appt

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

Every week, students will have a private lesson (MU330). Lesson times will be determined in consultation with the instructor.

TEXTBOOK: None (Jazz Repertory)



Course Description

The study of knowledge & techniques leading to a thorough understanding of the necessary components for jazz improvisation including historical perspectives, styles identified with certain eras, evolution of improvisation, and the importance of improvisation in the jazz idiom.

Course Objectives

This course will prepare the student to function as an improvising artist in any style of jazz music. Each lesson will be designed to develop both knowledge and skill in preparation for this goal.

Expected Learning Outcomes

These learning outcomes as well as those listed in the Saxophone Handbook will be tailor-made by Professor Leali in consultation with each individual student. Upon completion of this course, skills that students acquire can include:

1. Identify and explain several different approaches to Jazz improvisation
2. Recognize certain rhythmic patterns considered to be necessary components of the jazz language

3. Execute all major and minor (natural, jazz melodic, harmonic), scales with diatonic 13th patterns and intervals of 3rds and 4ths. Diminished and whole tone scale patterns will vary.
4. Define the term "Jazz Language"
5. Explain & demonstrate different techniques employed in the development of a good jazz improvisation
6. Recognize and differentiate between jazz masters of their perspective instruments as well as other jazz instrumentalists and vocalists
7. Construct an improvisation, employing appropriate scale choices, solid technique, competent melodic sense and rhythmic diversity, with or without accompaniment
8. Explain the fundamental concepts that make memorization of melodies and harmonic functions a necessity in Jazz music
9. Discuss the major innovators of each era in jazz, explaining their contributions and defining the characteristics that led to their labels as innovators
10. Recognize certain harmonic patterns, visually or aurally and explain their significance
11. Explain the importance of ear training and discuss several techniques related to the development of good aural sense

Methods For Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes

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

1. Weekly private lessons
2. Group and private listening
3. Performances (school activities, jam sessions, and gigs)
4. Teacher student discussions
5. Clinicians feedback and assessments
6. Transcriptions
7. At the end of each semester, each student is required to perform a jazz jury

Course Outline

Students will prepare repertoire assigned by the instructor, as well as be expected to do individual research of contributors to jazz, improvisational, and creative music. Individual lessons will be supplemented by the students' participation in a large jazz ensemble or jazz combo and the participation in weekly Jazz Departmentals, jam sessions, and gigs.

Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to attend all lessons on time.
 - *If a student misses a lesson, I possess the right as to whether or not there will be a makeup lesson.*
 - *Any missed lesson will be considered unexcused with the exception of illness or a family emergency. If the student is ill, an excuse (signed by a medical doctor) is required.*

- *Two unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing grade for the semester.*
 - *Any lesson that the instructor misses will be made up.*
2. It is MANDATORY for each student is to attend Jazz Saxophone Departmentals which meet each Thursday in room 262 from 12:00-12:50pm.
 3. Students are required to perform in no less than three Jazz Departmentals per semester. ***Failure to do so will result in the lowering of the final grade by a full letter grade.***
 4. Students are expected to practice all lesson assignments.
 5. Students are expected to listen to recordings of jazz.
 6. Students are expected to attend live performances of varying styles when possible.
 7. Students are expected to act professional at all times.
 8. Students are expected to perform a jazz jury at the end of each semester.
 9. Please make note: ***If a student does not perform at what I deem a satisfactory level, I possess the right to terminate lessons and refer the student to a TF.***

*Grading is based on attendance, assignments, final scale/etude juries, and attitude.

- 10% Attendance
- 40% Assignments
- 40% Final Scale/Etude Jury (***failure to take a jury will result in a failure of the course***)
- 10% Attitude

Grades are determined by a qualitative assessment of the students' progress and effort throughout the semester. Students will be evaluated weekly in their lessons, as well as in performances and participation. Students can expect that lack of preparation, attendance, and participation will negatively impact their grade. Students may ask their instructor at any time what kind of grade their current work merits.

Students enrolled in applied saxophone are expected to attend all saxophone lessons. If a student wishes to cancel a lesson, the teacher may make up the lesson at his discretion. Students wishing to cancel a lesson should notify the teacher at least 24 hours in advance (with the exceptions of death in the family or serious illness). If a student is unable to attend a lesson, she/he must give prior notification (via email brad.leali@unt.edu) to the instructor. Insufficiently prepared lessons will not be made up.

Applied lessons will begin no later than during the second week of classes. Each student will receive a minimum of 13 lessons per semester.

****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](#)

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 for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

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

Academic Calendar, Fall 2025

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](#)

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](#)

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/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>

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