



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

COURSE SCHEDULE:
1131/1132-505

Tuesday/Thursday 12:45pm -1:35pm
Location: MU262

TEXTBOOK:

Modern Reading Text in 4/4, Louis Bellson
Charlie Parker Omnibook



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 Lab West (282) from 11:10 am – 12:00 noon.
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:
 - a. Students are required to transcribe the melody intro and outro.
 - b. Material that is transcribed must be at least one chorus of improvisation.
 - c. 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.

Makeup and Late Work Policy:

Make up assignments will be offered only in cases of an official excused absence, which must be submitted no later than two days after the missed assignment. If no excused absence is received within that time, the assignment will receive a grade of F.

When an excused absence is submitted on time, the assignment must be completed on the next class day or as soon as possible thereafter, as arranged by the instructor. The assignment will be evaluated based on its quality; however, a one-letter-grade deduction will be applied for being late. In addition, an additional one-letter-grade deduction will be applied for each subsequent class day the assignment is not completed or submitted. As a result, late work will receive the grade it otherwise earns (B, C, D, or F), but is not eligible for an A.

Grading Criteria

Grades will be posted in Canvas after assignments and assessments have been graded.

Student performance will be evaluated in the following areas;

- Attendance
- Attitude and participation
- Assignments
- Final exam

Grading Scale

Each regular graded assignment will be evaluated using the following point system:

A = 4 points
B = 3 points
C = 2 points
D = 1 point
F = 0 points

The final exam will be weighted double and will use the following point values:

A = 8 points
B = 6 points
C = 4 points
D = 2 points
F = 0 points

At the end of the semester, all earned points will be averaged to determine the student's final course grade.

*** 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 2026****

Course Syllabi Information

(Additional resources for faculty are included at the end of this document)

For complete information on course syllabi requirements, please see the [university's policy](#).

(<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.

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. 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: [Fall Academic Calendar Information](#)

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

Semester Calendar, Fall 2026

See: [Fall Semester Calendar](#)

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

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>

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>

Additional Resources for Faculty

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (including sample statement for syllabi)

See: [Faculty Guide for the Use of AI](#)

Link: <https://guides.library.unt.edu/artificial-intelligence/AIfaculty>

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/>