

# Music As Communication

MUMH 1610.005

Musi 288

Tu/Th 12.30-1.50 PM

## Instructor Contact

Name: Barbara Dietlinger

Office Location: Bain 112

Pronouns: she | her

Office Hours: Tu/Th 2:30-3:30 pm and by appt.

(please sign up at <https://calendly.com/barbara-dietlinger-unt>; if the scheduled time does not work for you, please reach out via email)

Email: [Barbara.Dietlinger@unt.edu](mailto:Barbara.Dietlinger@unt.edu)

## Communication Expectations:

If you have a private question, please contact me via email, and I will usually respond within 24 hours on weekdays. I'm quick with email, and that is my preferred method of contact. If you have not heard from me and think you should have, please nudge me.

## Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

## Course Description

This course provides the fundamental skills needed to communicate about music in a scholarly way while also exploring how music is relevant to us today. Throughout the semester, students will develop the skills to think critically about music and its historical context, describe music from a variety of perspectives, and evaluate a wide variety of source materials such as musical scores, audio recordings, contemporaneous reviews, textbooks, and other primary and secondary sources. Ultimately *Music as Communication* will develop the necessary skills for proficient discussions of music in its social and historical contexts through an atmosphere that encourages teamwork and curiosity.

## Course Structure

MUMH 1610 is divided into six units, with weekly materials and assignments posted in Canvas. To succeed, come to Tuesday's class having completed the assigned preparation. Each class will include a short 5-minute break to stretch, grab a drink, or chat.

## Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Objectives:

1. Through historical documents, contemporary scholarship, and a broad spectrum of musical examples, students will cultivate the critical thinking skills needed to introduce problems and

questions; present, interpret, and analyze a variety of source material; consider the context of a variety of source material; develop arguments with a logical progression; and present conclusions and their implications. (Core LO: Critical Thinking)

2. Students will develop communication skills by writing and speaking about music and its history with a clear statement of purpose, organization, developed content, and accuracy. (Core LO: Communication)
3. By exploring the role of the music in characterizing individuals and groups, students will learn social responsibility by acknowledging and assuming diverse cultural/intercultural perspectives; exploring aspects of civic responsibility; and reflecting personally on the ability to understand, recognize, and even challenge notions of cultural bias. (Core LO: Social Responsibility)
4. As team members, students will be asked to contribute, prepare, collaborate, foster constructive team climates, and respond to feedback constructively related to the music and sources studied in this course. (Core LO: Teamwork)

## Materials

All course materials will be made available via Canvas as PDFs or links.

## Information Literacy

A portion of the assignments in this course (including reading assignments) are intended to have students engage with and access UNT Library resources. Such resources may include, but are not limited to, primary source databases, UNT special collections, and ebooks, with the goal of learning how to independently seek out, assess, and interpret primary and secondary source material available in the UNT Library databases.

## Statement on Use of AI

In this course, the use of GenAI tools is limited as directed by the instructor. Any additional use requires explicit permission, proper citation, and authentic student work.

## Course Technology & Skills

### Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Free iClicker account
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

## Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading PDFs
- Interacting with online music platforms (Spotify/YouTube)
- Using an in-class response system (iClicker)
- Accessing UNT Library Databases

## Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UNT Help Desk:** (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help  
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

## Grading Procedures

Assignment	1000 Points Needed for 100%
Syllabus Quiz/Introduce Yourself	50 points
iClicker (4 lowest dropped)	100 points
Attendance (you can miss 4 classes)	150 points
6 RATs (2 lowest of 8 dropped)	240 points
	iRAT (15 each)
	tRAT (25 each)
	drop lowest 2
<b>In-class activities</b>	~210
Group Charter Submission	35 points
Identity, Habits, Culture Sheet	20 points
SoundTrap Individual Assignment	35 points
Rest	120 points
<b>Final Project</b>	250 points
	150 points for final submission
	100 points for checkpoints.
Extra Credit Vocab List	50 points

**Please note: Grades are calculated with points, not percentage.**

### Syllabus Quiz/Introducing Yourself

There are two assignments at the beginning of the semester that are one-time assignments to help ensure you are comfortable with various aspects of the class. Each is worth 25 points, and they are as follows:

1. Syllabus Quiz: There is a Canvas quiz that goes over the syllabus. Please read the entire syllabus (if you've made it this far, great!). The quiz is to reward you for reading. It is due one week after the semester starts. You may take it as many times as you want to get 100%, but **I will not put you in a group until you check the box in the quiz that you understand there is group work and commit to it!** If you miss the due date, that does not mean you are completely barred from groups. I will happily reopen the quiz if you reach out to me, and I will be reaching out to you in any case.
2. Meet the Instructor/Introduce Yourself (Discussion Board): I would like you to introduce yourself in a discussion board post. Feel free to make it a video or to type. This is useful for me when I go back and look through information about you when you email or have questions, and it helps me get to know you.

### iClicker Polling

Throughout the semester, you will earn points in class most days using iClicker. You will earn 1 point per class as long as you answer at least 75% of iClicker questions. The four lowest scores will be dropped, which means you can miss four classes without any repercussions in this category. For iClicker grade throughout the semester, please see iClicker (not Canvas). I will calculate the grade at the end of the semester. iClicker is worth 10% of the grade.

It's an easy way to earn points (and you'll hopefully learn something), with that caveat, there are no makeups, redo attempts, or late submissions.

### Attendance

Most of the work for this class happens during class time, so showing up is key. You can miss up to 4 classes for any reason without losing attendance points. After that, each additional absence will lower your attendance score by 20 points. Excused absences will not count against your allowable absences and include College of Music-sanctioned events, absences due to documented illness and emergency, and religious observance. However, having many excused absences will likely impact your grade. You are responsible for providing documentation (even for College of Music-sanctioned absences) and reviewing materials covered during missed class sessions.

### Readiness Assurance Test

RATs are closed-book tests based on the assigned readings. There will be eight short multiple-choice Readiness Assurance Tests (RATs) given during the course. The same RATs will be given to individuals and teams. Each RAT consists of an individual portion (iRAT grade) and a team portion (tRAT grade). The readiness assurance process is the backbone of TBL, and this is how I ensure that your team has sufficiently prepared to be a part of the day with you. It also holds you accountable to your team. This shared accountability encourages teamwork and rewards preparation.

You will be able to drop the two lowest iRATs and the two lowest tRATs. If you are absent, this will count for one of the drops. Generally, the iRAT is worth 15 points and the tRAT is worth 25 points. For a list of the readings to prepare for each RAT, see Canvas.

## In-Class Activities

Throughout the semester, we will do quite a number of in-class activities that are worth between 10 and 35 points. All but three have to be finished in class and cannot be submitted from home in case you missed the class.

## Final Project

For your final project, you and your team members are part of a new music DJ collective and are tasked with creating a powerful, socially conscious new remix. The goal of this final project is to use music to “communicate” about an issue or idea. Your final project has three main components: a composition, a two-page overview of your samples and composition, and album artwork. The last two components (explanation and artwork) should be submitted in one document. More on this in Week 9.

## Extra Credit Option

- Over the course of the semester, we will come across many musical terms. Note them down during our classes and transfer them to a **handwritten “vocabulary list”** with terms from used in this course. You can submit up to 100 glossary entries and will receive up to .5 point per entry. To complete an entry, you need the terms’ definitions in your own words (don't just copy from Wikipedia or a dictionary!!!), a musical example, and a “special note” with some information that can help you memorize the term better.
- Hence, your glossary should have five columns: Here's an example:

No.	Term	Definition	Musical example	Special note
1	<i>Sequence</i>	<i>a Medieval monophonic plainchant sung after the Alleluia in the Latin Christian Church</i>	<i>Dies irae, dies illa</i>	<i>Notker Balbulus (Notker, the Stammerer) gave the sequence its name by adding text to the Jubilus (the untexted ending of the Alleluia). The text served him as a mnemonic device.</i>

**I advise you to make this an ongoing project, not a last-minute assignment.** To be submitted on Canvas. Submissions are possible until 12/8/25 at midnight.

## Letter Grades

The grade of “A” will be assigned for excellent academic work. A grade of “B” will be assigned for good work. A grade of “C” will be assigned for fair work. A grade of “D” will be assigned for work that minimally passes. A grade of “F” will be assigned for failing work.

(<http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/understand-your-grade-report>)

Grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

900-1050 A, 800-899 B, 700-799 C, 600-699 D, 0-599 F

### Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus can be modified. All modifications will be announced via Canvas and explained in writing.

## Unit 1: Music as Communication

DATE	TOPICS
AUG 19 & 21	Syllabus Group Formation How to Listen Musical Terms Skim Textbook
AUG 26 & 29	Semiotics Signs: Icons, Indices, Symbols Participatory Music Presentational Music Group Charter (in class, submission due Monday of Week 3)

## Unit 2: Music and Property

	TOPIC
SEP 2 & 4	Habits of Self, Identity, and Culture  Early Christian Music: Chant and Organum
SEP 9 & 11	Dies irae, dies illa
SEP 16 & 18	Music and Property – Changes Over Time Contrafacts Parody Homage Imitation Pastiche Arrangement Copyright Law

### Unit 3: Music and Drama

DATE	TOPIC
SEP 23 & 25	Opera and Wozzeck
SEP 30 & OCT 2	<i>West Side Story</i>

### Unit 4: Music and Film

DATE	TOPIC
OCT 7 & 9	Film Music Terminology  Film Music: Sound, Space, and Time
OCT 14 & 16	A Brief History of Film Music Final Project Launch



## Unit 5: Music and Technology

DATE	TOPIC
OCT 21 & 23	High Fidelity and Studio Art Music  <b><i>Thursday, Oct. 23: Soundbox Visit (4<sup>th</sup> floor Willis Library)</i></b> <i>In 2 groups: Group 1 meets at 12:25 in front of The Soundbox; Group 2 at 1:05. This means Thursday's class is only 40 minutes; we'll decide on groups on Tuesday)</i>
OCT 28 & 30	Music Distribution: From Manuscript to Spotify SoundTrap In-Class Activity  October 30: Guest lecture by Dr. Andrew Malilay White
NOV 4 & 6	Music Distribution: From Manuscript to Spotify (continued) Music and AI Project Brainstorm 2

## Unit 6: Music: Power, Politics, and Protest

DATE	TOPIC
NOV 11 & 13	Music and Censorship in Soviet Russia Music and Jingoism: Nazi Germany
NOV 18 & 20	Protest Music
NOV 25 & 27 (NO CLASSES)	Thanksgiving
DEC 2 & 4	Final Project Checkpoint 2 Final Project Presentations
DEC 8	Final Projects (150 points) and Extra Credit vocab list due

## UNT Policies

### **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](https://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/](https://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](https://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>