Instructor:

Dr. Brian F. Wright  
Email: brian.wright@unt.edu  
Office Number: MU305  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm-3:00pm, or by appointment  
(Zoom office hours available by appointment)

Course Description:

This class is an introduction to the academic study of jazz. Over the course of the semester, we will read selections from the scholarly literature on jazz and then discuss key issues in the field, including historiography, race, space and place, gender and sexuality, the role of technology, and more. Building on this literature, students will then design, research, and write their own jazz studies project. Ultimately, this class is intended not only to familiarize students with the ongoing debates and conversations in jazz studies, but also to help them think through new approaches to studying music more broadly.

Course Objectives:

Through this course, students will become familiar with various disciplinary approaches in jazz studies, will develop their own analytical perspectives on jazz, and will further hone their skills as scholars and researchers. The course’s final project, in particular, is designed to provide practical skills that are useful as students prepare to enter professions either within the academy or without.

Course Materials:

No textbook is required for this class. All assigned readings will be uploaded to the course’s Canvas site (unt.instructure.com).
Assignments (Guidelines for Each Assignment Can be Found on Canvas):

1. Discussion Questions (24 in total, cumulatively worth 20% of final grade)
   a. Prior to each class meeting, you will suggest some possible discussion questions raised by that day’s assigned readings. These questions can be short and informal. They are due by 11:59pm on the day before class.

2. Weekly Response Papers (12 in total, cumulatively worth 30% of final grade)
   a. For each unit, you will write a 250-500-word response engaging with some aspect of the week’s assigned readings. Responses are due on the Friday of each unit.

3. Final Research Project (cumulatively worth 30% of final grade)
   a. Your main assignment in this class will be a research project based on an instructor-approved topic. The project will be spread out over the course of the semester into the following assignments:
      i. Preliminary Topic Proposal(s) (2% of final grade)
         1. Proposal of potential topics for your final project. DUE 2/19.
      ii. Bibliography (3% of final grade)
         1. Bibliography of sources related to your project. DUE 3/5.
      iii. Abstract (5% of final grade)
         1. Written preliminary summary of your research project. DUE 4/2.
      iv. In-Class Presentation (10% of final grade)
         1. 15-minute presentation of your research in the style of an academic conference paper. DATES VARY.
      v. Revised Paper (10% of final grade)
         1. 12-20-page written version of your research. DUE 5/10.

4. Participation (20%)
   a. Your participation grade is based on your attendance, punctuality, preparedness, in-class participation, and peer-review feedback. Additionally, each of you will be assigned to introduce particular readings and lead in-class discussions over the course of the semester.
5. Grade Breakdown
   A: 89.5-100.0
   B: 79.5-89.4
   C: 69.5-79.4
   D: 63.5-69.4
   F: 0.0-63.4

Course Policies

Face Coverings:
UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Attendance:
Attendance is crucial to your success in this course. As this is a doctoral seminar, reading the material and participating in in-class discussions are key components of the learning process. 20% of your final grade, therefore, depends on your attendance in class. Three unexcused absences will cause your final grade in the class to be lowered by a full letter grade; four unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

If you cannot attend class, for whatever reason, please contact me directly. Whether you will be able to make up (or be excused from) coursework will take place on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.

COVID-19 impact on attendance:
While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are
unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19.

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider.

While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and that of others in the community, is far more important. Please do not show up to class if you are feeling ill.

Course Materials for Remote Instruction:
Students will need access to a computer, stable internet connection, webcam, access to Zoom, and microphone to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn

Late Work Policy:
Late work will not be accepted in this class without a reasonable excuse. If you must submit something late, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. As with the attendance policy, whether you will be able to submit (or be excused from) from late work will take place on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

Class Guidelines:
It is important when writing a research paper to make it absolutely clear when you are using someone else’s idea(s). This is done through proper attribution and citation practices, which we will discuss multiple times in class. Plagiarism occurs when you accidentally or purposefully do any of the following:

• Use someone else’s words either verbatim or nearly verbatim without attribution
• Use someone else’s evidence, line of thinking, or idea without attribution
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- Turn in someone else’s work as your own
- Turn in previously submitted work as new work without instructor approval

If you are unsure if something constitutes plagiarism, please consult me and/or the web resources I’ve linked to in Canvas.

UNT Policy:
Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. 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.

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf

Course Evaluation:
Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. SPOT evaluations will be conducted in the final weeks of class and all students that complete this course’s evaluation will be given extra credit.

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)

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity
UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to
maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.
See: Diversity and Inclusion
Link: https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion

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 at a Glance, Spring, 2022
See: Academic Calendar at a Glance
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Spring_2022_Academic_Calender.pdf

Final Exam Schedule
See: Spring, 2022 Final Exam Schedule
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress
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.
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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 whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. 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 issues, please visit:
See: Mental Health Issues
Link: https://speakout.unt.edu.

The counselor for music students is:
Myriam Reynolds
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. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed “Request to Drop” form to the Registrar’s Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall, 2021 is November 12. Information about add/drop may be found at:

See: Drops and Withdrawals
Link: https://sfs.unt.edu/class-drop-and-withdrawal-refunds
(Also see Academic Calendar, listed above)

Student Resources

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: Student Resources
Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf
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Course Schedule and Readings (Subject to Change)

Week 1

| January 18 | Mark Tucker and Travis A. Jackson, “Jazz,” in Grove Music Online (Oxford Music Online) [First Published 2013] |
| January 20 |

Week 2 – Jazz Historiography


Week 3 – Defining and/or Rejecting “Jazz”

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February 3


Week 4 - Jazz Education

February 8


David Ake, “Rethinking Jazz Education,” in Jazz Matters: Sound, Place, and Time Since Bebop (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), 102-120.

February 10


Extra Credit Outing: Fire Shut Up in My Bones at Cinemark West Plano (February 12)
Week 5 – Space and Place

February 15  

February 17  

***IN-CLASS DISCUSSION WITH THE AUTHOR***

Preliminary Paper Topics Due via Canvas by February 19

Week 6 – Women in Jazz

February 22  

February 24  
Week 7 – Jazzmasculinities and Queerness

|---|---|

Preliminarily Bibliographies due via Canvas by March 5

Week 8 - Deconstructing Whiteness in Jazz

|---|---|
| March 10 | Kelsey Klotz, “Introduction: Buying the Myth” and “‘We Want to Play in the South’: Brubeck’s Southern Strategy,” from Dave Brubeck and the Performance of Whiteness (forthcoming).  
***ZOOM DISCUSSION WITH THE AUTHOR*** |
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NO CLASS ON MARCH 15 OR 17 [SPRING BREAK]

Week 9 – Global Jazz

March 22

March 24

Week 10 – Developing Your Own Jazz Studies Project

March 29

March 31
IN-CLASS DISCUSSION OF FINAL PAPER TOPICS  
[NO WEEKLY READING RESPONSE THIS WEEK]

Abstracts due via Canvas by April 2
Week 11 – Recording Jazz


Week 12

| April 12      | Bebop  
| April 14      | Neoclassical Jazz  
|              | Herman Gray, “Jazz Tradition, Institutional Formation, and Cultural Practice,” in Cultural Moves: African Americans
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**Week 13**

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<th>April 19</th>
<th>Smooth Jazz</th>
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<th>April 21</th>
<th>Jazz and the Internet</th>
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| Ken Prouty, “The Virtual Jazz World,” in *Knowing Jazz*, 115-150.  

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**UNIT III: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**Week 14**

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<tr>
<th>April 26</th>
<th>Student Presentations I</th>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>Student Presentations II</td>
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**Week 15**

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<th>May 3</th>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Student Presentations IV</td>
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**Final Papers must be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on Tuesday May 10, 2022**