**Applied Trumpet Syllabus**

Instructor: Ben Gerkins

Course Number: MUAC 1516 Section 705

Semester: Spring 2025

Room Number: Bain Hall 213

Instructor Email: [ben.gerkins@unt.edu](mailto:ben.gerkins@unt.edu)

Instructor Phone: (270) 790-9976

Office Hours: By Appointment

**TEXT AND SUPPLIMENTARY MATERIALS:**

There are no required texts or supplementary materials required for applied trumpet lessons. In Canvas, there is a list of standard trumpet repertoire sorted by period along with a list of standard methods sorted by skills covered. Most methods and solos listed are available in the UNT Music Library (fourth floor of Willis Library). There is also a list of exemplary trumpet players that all students should be aware of. None of the lists are by any means exhaustive, but they are a good start.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Throughout this course, students will:

* Develop proficiency in all aspects of trumpet pedagogy and performance in accordance with their experience and career goals
* Study and gain awareness of a wide variety of trumpet literature, including solos, methods, and academic texts
* Be able to identify deficiencies in playing ability and understand how to address them independently
* Execute musical, historically informed, and creative performances and interpretive opinions
* Nurture a productive work ethic that can be transferred to all aspects of their musical and nonmusical lives
* Explore musical styles and genres that serve their personal playing and professional aspirations

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Applied trumpet lessons are designed to help you become proficient in the many necessary aspects of trumpet performance. During the semester, you will develop a personalized, goal-based course of study with your instructor. This plan will assist you in developing and maintaining performance and pedagogical skills. Lesson content and format will vary with each student and will be determined by the instructor based upon the goals set at the beginning of the semester and the requirements of the department and/or College of Music. All students are expected to make satisfactory progress through hard work, diligent preparation, and successful musical performances. It is expected that each student will completely prepare for each lesson. This kind of preparation is essential to your success as a trumpeter and a musician.

Students will study and prepare various selections of technique assignments, etudes, and solo literature. Each student will prepare weekly technique assignments pertaining to the following categories: flow studies, articulation, and flexibility. Additional categories (high register, transposition, etc.) can be assigned in conjunction with the previous listed categories as needed. Etudes and solo literature assignments will be made based on the needs of each individual student. Various styles (orchestral excerpts, jazz, mariachi, etc.) can also be focused on in accordance with the goals of each student.

Students are allotted 13 applied lessons over the course of the semester. During each lesson students will be given specific assignments that are to be performed the subsequent week. It is expected that the student will come fully prepared for each lesson. This is not only necessary to receive a satisfactory grade in the course but will also prepare for the realities of any professional environment students will encounter upon graduation.

**STUDIO CLASS:**

Students are encouraged, but not required, to attend the studio classes of the applied trumpet faculty. These classes will give students the opportunity to perform for their peers and the faculty along with the occasional masterclass opportunity. While students are not required to attend the studio classes, **students are required to attend the weekly Trumpet Departmental**. Attendance will be taken by the Teaching Fellows each week, and unexcused absences will affect your final attendance grade. If students have a scheduling conflict that prevents you from attending departmental, they are expected to communicate with their teacher before the semester begins and they will be excused. Listed are the times/locations of studio classes and departmental:

Professor Holt’s Studio Class – Wednesdays 1:00-1:50PM (MU116)

Dr. Samayoa’s Studio Class – Fridays 12:00-12:50PM (MU132)

Dr. Walker’s Studio Class – Mondays 12:00-12:50PM (MU258)

Trumpet Departmental – Wednesdays 12:00-12:50PM (Recital Hall)

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

All necessary materials must be brought to every lesson, including solos, etudes, excerpts, ensemble parts, and equipment. Solos, etude and excerpt books you don’t already own can be checked out from the UNT Music Library (4th floor of Willis Library), or ordered from vendors such as Pender’s Music Company, Hickeys Music Center, Robert King Music Sales, etc. You may be asked to purchase certain materials deemed necessary for your musical growth and development. Materials owned by your teacher may be checked out with the understanding that 1) a request for the immediate return of the materials can occur when necessary, 2) it is your responsibility to replace any property that is lost or damaged, 3) you must return the materials in the same condition as they were received, and 4) the teacher reserves the right to issue an incomplete or a failing grade if materials are not returned by the end of the school year in an acceptable condition. Your teacher also reserves the right not to check out their personal materials.

**GRADING SCALE:**

This course utilizes competency-based grading across various categories of assignments. If the student completes the assignments with noticeable effort and preparation, they will receive full credit. Assignments are grouped into the following categories:

1. *WEEKLY LESSONS – 30%*

**If a student shows up to their lesson prepared and executes the assigned material with noticeable effort, they will pass the Weekly Lessons category.** A lesson is failed if the student is absent without prior notice. A lesson is failed if the assigned material is not proficient due to lack of preparation. Four failed lessons will result in a failure of the Weekly Lessons Category.

1. *FINAL EXAMINATION JURY – 40%*

Music majors are required to perform a final examination jury each semester of study. If the student is performing a recital of any kind, grading will be applied to the recital. The final jury consists of the following components

* Solo Performance
  + Student will prepare and rehearse a solo selection in conjunction with the instructor
* Scale Examination
  + Student will be assessed on all of their learned scales during their final semester lesson (before their jury date). Students will pass their scale examination if they demonstrate proficiency with 75% of their scales.
* Public Performance
  + Student must perform their jury solo at least once in studio class or departmental during the semester

After four semesters of study, students must take their Upper Division Examination (UDE) in order to enroll for 3000-level trumpet lessons. This will be a regular jury that typically takes place the second semester of the second year of study. Literature will be determined in conjunction with the instructor.

Student is responsible for all planning components of the final jury, including pianist rehearsals, fees, etc. The student will pass the Final Examination Jury category if they demonstrate proficiency and responsibility with all aspects of the jury process.

1. *REFLECTION PAPERS – 20%*

Students are required to submit 2 reflection papers throughout the semester. This will give the student the opportunity to reflect on their progress and keep track of their individual goals. Each reflection will require the student to answer the following questions:

* What do you consider some of your strengths as a trumpet player?
* What are some of your weaknesses as a trumpet player?
* Throughout the past several months, what were some of your most effective practice strategies? Describe them in detail.
* What are some of your goals for the next several months? What techniques will you use to get there?

Each question must be answered in a full paragraph in complete sentences. **The first reflection paper will be due by 11:59pm on Friday, January 24th and the final reflection paper will be due by 11:59pm on Friday, May 2nd**. All papers will be submitted via Canvas, and feedback will be provided by the instructor. If both papers are submitted on time and follow the guidelines above, the student will pass this category.

1. *ATTENDANCE – 10%*

**Attendance at weekly Trumpet Departmental is required**. Students are permitted up to three unexcused absences. If a student accumulates more than three unexcused absences, they will fail the attendance category.

University-approved absences and class conflicts will not be counted toward this total. Students are expected to bring their instrument and participate in the discussions and performance demonstrations. The same attendance expectations apply to any campus trumpet events (recitals, masterclasses, etc.).

Additional assignments may be curated based on the students’ individual goals and needs.

**INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION:**

Correspondence via email is highly preferred. Students may text the instructor in the event of emergencies. The instructor reserves the right to not respond to texts before or after teaching hours (Monday-Friday 8:00am-7:00pm). Students are free to schedule a meeting with their instructor at any point in accordance with the instructor’s schedule.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

For more information on trumpet studio procedures, recital scheduling procedures, etc., please view the University of North Texas Trumpet Manual (available upon request) or ask your instructor for specific details. Please review the Canvas page for any additional documents.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**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](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](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/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](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

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](https://disability.unt.edu/)

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: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

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

**Academic Calendar, Fall 2025**

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html)

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

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](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See:  [Mental Health Resources](https://disparities.unt.edu/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](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

If you actually read this entire syllabus, text Ben the word “candy” and he owes you a candy bar of your choice the next time he sees you.