



Course Snapshot

Sounds and Cinema MUMH 2050 450

Term: 2026 Fall

Modality: Online

, -, INET

Instructor Information

Name: Brian Anderson

UNT Email Address: Brian.Anderson@unt.edu

Office Hours and Location

Office Hours: By appointment

[Book In-Person Appointment](#)

[Book Online Appointment](#)

Office or Department Phone Number: 940-565-2791

Preferred Contact Method: Email

Expected Response Time: If you have a private question, please contact me via email, and I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner) and around 48 hours on weekends.

Course Description

2050. Sounds and Cinema. 3 hours. This course develops critical and analytical approaches to the soundtrack, music's role in the soundtrack, and the relation of soundtrack and imagertrack (especially relating to music) on small-scale and large-scale (narrative) levels. Previous experience with musical performance (including the ability to read music) is not required or expected.

Course Structure

This course is offered in a flipped, hybrid format over a 16-week semester. Each weekly module includes required online learning activities—such as readings, videos, quizzes, or other preparatory assignments—that students complete in Canvas before the scheduled in-person meeting. Our weekly face-to-face class functions as a recitation, application, and problem-solving session where we will extend, apply, and discuss the concepts introduced in the online materials.

Students are expected to complete the assigned module before attending the weekly in-person meeting. Each pre-class module will include a graded assignment connected to the online preparation, since this work forms the foundation for meaningful participation and successful progress in the course. The hybrid structure is designed to support active learning, provide flexibility, and ensure that our in-person time is used for deeper exploration, collaboration, and practice. Because these recitation meetings are central to the course, our face-to-face class attendance policy is [insert course attendance policy blurb here].

Research on flipped courses has shown that this model can support student success by moving information-gathering and introductory content outside of class time. This approach allows in-person meetings to focus on more active learning: working with classmates, practicing course concepts, asking questions, and receiving guidance from the instructor in real time.

Instructor Welcome and Course Orientation

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.

This course focuses on the appreciation and analysis of film music as a creative work of the human imagination. In so doing, this course develops critical and analytical approaches to the soundtrack, music's role in the soundtrack, and the relation of the soundtrack and imagetrack (especially relating to music) on small-scale and large-scale (narrative) levels. The course develops critical listening and

viewing abilities, so that students can effectively communicate interpretive ideas of the music at hand.

This course also offers a particular kind of film-music history survey, one that focuses on the three points in the history of film sound: the introduction of sound, the introduction of stereo, and the [introduction of digital sound](#). The course will explore the thesis that each of these technological advances [alters](#) the structural relationships that obtain among the three relatively autonomous components of the soundtrack—dialogue, music and effects. In so doing, this course seeks to explore critical, creative, and innovative ways to analyze film music as a unique work of art.

The course is designed so that students can be successful without a background in music history and theory or [a background](#) in film history or theory. Musical performance background (reading music [notation](#)) is also not a prerequisite. *The main requirement is a willingness to listen carefully and to articulate what is heard.*

Learning Outcomes and Alignment

1. Through historical documents, contemporary scholarship, and particular film soundtracks, 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 film 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 soundtrack and [imagetrack](#) 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)**

General Education Core Outcomes

The UNT Core Curriculum serves as general education for all undergraduate degree programs. In this core course, students will gain foundational knowledge and skills appropriate to the core component area of CREATIVE ARTS. Designated course assignments have been designed to assess the relevant core objectives:

- Students will analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to develop evidence-based conclusions and solve complex problems using critical and creative thinking. (Critical Thinking)
- Students will develop, interpret, and communicate ideas through clear written, oral, and visual communication that is appropriate for the intended audience and purpose. (Communication Skills)
- Students will collaborate effectively with others by contributing to shared goals, considering diverse perspectives, and demonstrating respectful and productive interpersonal skills. (Teamwork)
- Students will demonstrate intercultural competence and civic responsibility by engaging respectfully and effectively with diverse communities and considering the broader regional, national, and global impact of their actions. (Social Responsibility)

Course Materials

See Recommended Materials

Recommended Materials

Highly Recommended: James Buhler, David Neumeyer, and Rob Deemer, *Hearing the Movies: Music and Sound in Film History*, 2nd edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Major Assignments and Assessments

Assignment Details

The second module in Canvas has details and links to the place in Canvas where you submit your assignments. Additionally, rubrics are available in Canvas for biweekly reflections and the scoring projects.

Other Opportunities to Earn Points:

While all previously stated opportunities to earn points are guaranteed, there may be a few opportunities to earn extra points in the class. One such opportunity includes having 75% of the class complete the SPOT evaluation at the end of the semester. This happens frequently. If additional opportunities for points arise, I will let you know. Should any opportunities for points arise, they will be available to the whole class. I do not offer students opportunities to earn points that are not available to others.

Grading and Feedback

Assignment	Points Needed for 100%
Syllabus Quiz/Introduce Yourself	40 points 15 points Introduce Yourself (Week 1) 25 points Course Overview (Week 1)
RAT	120 points Five 30-point opportunities Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10, 13 Drop Lowest Score
In Class Activities	160 points 20 points per day, 8 days needed (of 9)
Online Checkpoints	80 points 10–20 per unit (Weeks 2–14) Drop Lowest Week
Individual Assignments	325 points 125 points AI <u>Microcredentials</u> (Week 3) 200 points Bi-Weekly Reflections. 4/6 opportunities at 50 points Weeks 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14
Scoring Project	275 points 125 points for midterm project (week 8) 150 points for final project (week 16)

Course Calendar

Course Calendar

Out of the Clinic and into the Community

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Out of the Woods and into the Forest

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Out of Context: A Reader's Manual

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Authorized Absences Policy

An absence will be excused by the university for: a. religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; b. participation in an official university function; c. required military service, including travel for that purpose; d. pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and e. when the University is officially closed.

For more details and procedures regarding UNT Authorized Absences, please see [Policy 06.039](#).

Absences that do not fall under Title IX, Required Military Service, and Official University Absences (religious holy days, participation in an official university function, and when the University is officially closed), are deemed a matter between the student and their faculty member. If the absence is due to an illness or extenuating circumstance that exceeds 5 consecutive days, the faculty member may request for the student to provide documentation through the Dean of Students' office.

Course Level Absence Practice

Attendance Policy

We will take attendance regularly, especially to monitor in-class team activities.

Should you miss class, you cannot earn in-class assignment points. **Because we will complete many more in-class assignments than required to earn the necessary points, it is not possible to make up missed in-class assignments.** In other words, it's okay to miss a couple classes here and there – you'll be able to earn enough points for 100%. Please note that a substantial portion of your grade comes from attendance and participation. Indeed, a substantial of your final grade is related to forms of individual and team participation. Please don't make missing class a habit!

UNT Academic Integrity Policy

According to [UNT Policy 06.003](#), Student Academic Integrity, academic

dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

AI Use Practice

Statement on Use of AI

Throughout the semester, you will or may use specific Generative AI (GenAI) tools for certain select assignments, with guidance on responsible use. These assignments help build ethical resilience and GenAI literacy, preparing you for careers in a GenAI-oriented workforce.

I use GenAI to enhance materials, streamline tasks, generate prompts, create scenarios, brainstorm ideas, design Power Points, and gather information. I have also experimented with AI for writing question drafts, data analysis, and editing. I will always disclose how I use GenAI, and I expect the same from you.

Certain assignments in this course will permit or even encourage the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools such as ChatGPT. The default is that such use is disallowed unless otherwise stated. Any such use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. It is each student's responsibility to assess the validity and applicability of any GAI output that is submitted; you bear the final responsibility. Violations of this policy will be considered academic misconduct. We draw your attention to the fact that different classes at UNT could implement different AI policies, and it is the student's responsibility to conform to expectations for each course.

You are allowed to use AI for the following purposes on all assignments:

- Grammar and proofreading – with citation (what LLM/program you used, and how).

- Input your own writing into LLM and ask for a summary, or to check for errors – with citation (what LLM/program you used, and how).

- Brainstorming ideas, music, or artwork for the final project – with citation (what LLM/program you used, and how).

- Generate artwork for the final project

 - With prompts and responses (at least 4, if applicable).

 - With citation (what LLM/program you used, and how).

- Generate sections music for the final project

 - With citation (what LLM/program you used, and how).

If more than 20 seconds used, please consult instructor on proper usage, prompts, and citations. |

You are NOT allowed to use the following AI features |

Generate text for submission |

Generate initial (or final) response to a prompt |

Generate any music or video |

Generate shot lists, sound/music lists, or describe movies you are supposed to describe. |

Note – it's bad at this anyway. |

Course Level Practices

Assignment Policy |

Students can find all assignment information, submission guidelines, and due dates in the Introduction Module in Canvas. |

Instructor Feedback |

Due to the class size, I will return feedback on all written assignments within two weeks of the due date. If I see that I will be unable to return your feedback within that timeframe, I will post an announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected. |

Late Work |

In general, work due outside of class will receive a 24-hour grace period, after which it will not be accepted. This is in large part to facilitate grading in a class such as this. There are two caveats. |

First, I will give an extension of two days to any assignment that is an individual assignment, without limit. The only caveat is that you must ask before the assignment is due. No reasons are needed, and I will work with you on a plan to get the assignment in. The key here is timely communication. Once the assignment is late, the best-case scenario for normal events is the loss of the missing points for the days you were late before contacting me, and no extension should be expected after the assignment is due. This does not apply to team assignments or in-class work. |

With that said, there are unusual circumstances in all of our lives. When in doubt, reach out to me. Please do not email TAs – they just end up emailing me, and everything takes longer and involves more emails. |

Attendance Policy |

We will take attendance regularly, especially to monitor in-class team activities. |

Should you miss class, you cannot earn in-class assignment points. **Because we will complete many more in-class assignments than required to earn the necessary points, it is not possible to make up missed in-class assignments.** In other words, it's okay to miss a couple classes here and there – you'll be able to earn enough points for 100%. Please note that a substantial portion of your grade comes from attendance and participation. Indeed, a substantial of your final grade is related to forms of individual and team participation. Please don't make missing class a habit!

Syllabus Change Policy

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

Academic Support and Student Services

Technology Support

Part of working in the online environment involves managing the inconveniences and frustrations 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:

- Phone: 940-565-2324
- Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
- Current list of [Student Help Desk hours](#)

Academic Support Services

- The [UNT Academic Resource Center](#) provides links to the bookstore, registration and advising information, tuition information, financial aid, and more.
- The [UNT Academic Success Center](#) offers academic support services and free individual tutoring.
- [UNT Writing Lab](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)

Student Services

- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [Student Affairs Care Team](#)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)

- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)

Civil Discourse

As a leading public university, the University of North Texas has a fundamental responsibility to create enduring value for the public good. The fulfillment of our mission as a university depends upon the free exchange of ideas in the pursuit of knowledge. We bring these commitments into action by centering civil discourse in our culture and curriculum. We define civil discourse as the practice of constructive dialogue to broaden understanding, grounded in our shared values and deep respect for each other's potential. By committing to this practice, we seek to equip every student with skills and mindsets to engage, contribute, and lead—at UNT and throughout your lives.

Engaging with different ideas, asking questions, and debating are essential to a university education. This course may include ideas you disagree with, find unwise, or even find offensive – that we include for purposes of academic inquiry and critical examination. You may be asked to demonstrate understanding of these ideas without being required to believe or endorse them. My role as an instructor is to help you build understanding and foster critical thinking. If any claim – mine, yours, or a fellow student's – seems unclear or unsupported, we should be able to ask each other to explain it. Vigorous debate is welcome. Speech that violates the Student Code of Conduct, including speech that harasses a specific individual or disrupts the course is not. You may expect that views expressed in class will not be attributed to specific individuals outside of class, and that you will be evaluated fairly based on the learning objectives of this course.

University Policies

ADA Accommodation Statement: UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking

accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

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 Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information – Eagle Connect: Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/.

Student Evaluation Administration Dates: Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to

an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Pregnancy Modifications Under Title IX and Parenting Resources: UNT is committed to supporting students who may need pregnancy and parenting modifications in compliance with Title IX. If you are a pregnant student or have a pregnancy related condition, please visit report.unt.edu and complete the 'Request Pregnancy/Parenting Modifications' form. Parenting students who may need resources can seek support and guidance from the Dean of Students and the Eagle Engagement Center. [Pregnant and Parenting Students Policy number 16.008](#).

Copyright Notice: Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection. Materials may include, but are not limited to: documents, slides, images, audio, and video. Materials in this course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course, for purposes associated with this course, and may not be retained for longer than the class term. Unauthorized retention, duplication, distribution, or modification of copyrighted materials is strictly prohibited by law. For more information, visit the [UNT Policy Office](#), or [Copyright.gov](https://copyright.gov).

Web Accessibility & Privacy: Please find the web accessibility and privacy statements for UNT and Canvas.

UNT

- [Web Accessibility Policy](#)
- [Privacy Statement](#)

Canvas/Instructor

- [Accessibility Statement](#)

F1 Visa Holder Information

Important Notice for F-1 and J-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

F-1 and J-1 international students physically present inside the U.S. are not permitted to enroll in a primarily online degree program. To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking incidental online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/reg#f6iv>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 or J-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 or J-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor at the instructor's discretion) can include activities such as taking on-campus exams, participating in on-campus lectures or lab activities, or other on-campus experiences integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus is an integral part of the course and takes place throughout the semester. The instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. [ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose](#). This form must then be submitted to the ISSS office through [iNorthTX](#).

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 or J-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, they should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.