



Course Snapshot

Explorations in Music I MUTH 1300 001

Term: 2026 Fall

Modality: In Person

Meeting Information: MWF, 09:05AM-09:55AM, MUSI 301

Instructor Information

Name: David Heetderks

UNT Email Address: David.Heetderks@unt.edu

Office Hours and Location

Tue 1–2:30pm, Thu 4–5:00pm, MU-310 (in the College of Music Building)

Office or Department Phone Number: 9405363363

Preferred Contact Method: E-mail

Expected Response Time: 24 hours

Course Description

1300. Explorations in Music I. 3 hours. Introduction to basic musicianship including elements of music, staff, clefs, key signatures, scales, time signatures and notation. Credit in this course may not be applied to a music degree.

Course Structure

This course is structured into weekly modules. Each module, you will complete Nuts and Bolts Assignments, complete in-class quizzes, and complete a larger Exploration assignment. Further details on these assignments can be found below.

Instructor Welcome and Course Orientation

Welcome, everyone, to Explorations in Music! I wanted to take a brief moment to tell you all about myself. I love playing piano and guitar, writing and arranging music, singing in choirs, and listening to music. I am fascinated by how music is put together and why it can affect our emotions and mind so powerfully. I got a PhD in music theory at the University of Michigan to explore these questions. In this class we will also study some of the fundamental materials of music—rhythm, meter, pitch, chords, tonality—and become more fluent in hearing them and writing them down. I hope this class helps make you a better listener, performer, musician, and thinker, and that it prepares you for future musical exploration.

When I am not teaching classes, I research pop and rock music. I have written about the band Sonic Youth, about early 2000s experimental pop, about Motown, and I am currently studying rhythm



and time in the doom metal genre. I also help my wife take care of four children at home, read, exercise, and like to solve math puzzles. If you have any favorite bands or puzzles, please send them my way!

Course Description

In this course, we learn to identify and create with basic materials of music, including basic types of meter, rhythms, pitch, scales, triads, generic intervals, and types of texture. We will explore how they appear in music from around the world. In addition, we will learn the fundamentals of Western music notation, lead-sheet symbols, the Nashville Number system, and Roman numerals.

I hope you will leave this course better able to hear and discuss the materials that help to create a piece of music and more fluent in musical terminology and notation.

Learning Outcomes and Alignment

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to

1. Describe the most common metric patterns that occur in various musical styles.
2. Identify a passage's meter by listening to its repeated chord progressions and melodic patterns.
3. Diagram a song's meter.
4. Explain how different scales appear in folk and popular styles.
5. Create musical scales, collections, and chords in musical notation and in a MIDI sequencer.
6. Explain how different chord progressions create dramatic effects in film music and are a building block of pop

songs.

7. Create chord progressions by reading lead-sheet symbols, Nashville-number notation, and musical notation.

Course Materials



Online Sequencer

Notes

You will complete some assignments using the online sequencer website.

URL: <https://onlinesequencer.net/>



iClicker

Notes

You must install an iClicker account in this class in order to take in-class quizzes. Use the url below to set up your iClicker account, or use the QR code shown below:

Go to

join.iclicker.com
ODKA



URL: <https://join.iclicker.com/ODKA>



Sonic Visualizer

Notes

Sonic Visualizer is a free audio imaging program that you will use for some assignments. This program is also installed on the public computers in the Music Library and Soundbox at the Music Library.

URL: <https://www.sonicvisualiser.org/download.html>

Course-Specific Technology

Technology Skills

Minimum technology skills for successful completion of this course include:

- Sending and receiving email
- Creating, sending, and receiving Microsoft Word documents
- Posting to discussion boards
- Scanning or photographing documents and uploading the scans to Canvas
- Opening and either printing or editing pdf files, using free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

Online Rules of Engagement

[Online Rules of Engagement](#) refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online.

Major Assignments and Assessments

This course is divided into 14 units, not including the review. Each unit has:

1–2 *Nuts and Bolts* assignments, where you practice skills by identifying and creating musical information. They will be worth a total of 100 points per week.

1–3 *iClicker Quizzes*, where you show your understanding of the musical material during class. They will be worth a total of 100 points per week.

Online Practice Quizzes, where you will practice showing your knowledge of a topic. The practice quizzes will not be graded and are designed to help you with in-class and Fortnight Quizzes.

1 *Exploration*, where you synthesize your knowledge into a longer analysis, creative assignment, and/or discuss issues and critique work by your classmates. They will be worth 100 points per week.

You will have an additional *Fortnightly Quiz* every two weeks, which you will complete either on Canvas or during class.

I will not accept late work, unless you contact me ahead of time and receive permission to submit late.

In addition, you will take a final exam at the end of the semester on Canvas.

Grading and Feedback

The score for each of your assignments will be translated into a grade using this system:

Score Range	Grade
90–100	A
80–89	B
70–79	C
60–69	D
below 60	F

To calculate your final grade, I will average the assignment grades in each category and then create a weighted average based on these proportions:

Grade Category	Percentage of Final Grade
Nuts and Bolts Assignments	30%
In-class Quizzes	15%
Fortnightly Quizzes	15%
Explorations	30%
Final Exam	10%

Nuts and bolts assignments: 30%

Quizzes: 30%

Explorations/Discussions: 30%

Final Exam: 10%

Your final letter grade will be calculated using the same rubric shown above. Because the assignments are designed to help you master and synthesize the material, I do not offer extra credit for different work.

Course Schedule

Date	Assignment Name	Type	Points
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Date	Assignment Name	Type	Points
	iClicker Quiz 08.21	Assignment	100
	iClicker Quiz 8.26	Assignment	100
	iClicker Quiz 8.28	Assignment	100
	iClicker Quiz 9.2	Assignment	100
	iClicker Quiz 9.4	Assignment	100
	iClicker Quiz 9.9	Assignment	100
	Week 7 Quiz 1: Unusual Time Signatures	Quiz	10
8/21/26	Week 1 Quiz 1: The melodic, bass, and chord layers	Quiz	0
8/21/26	Syllabus Quiz	Quiz	100
8/24/26	Module 1 Exploration: Finding an example of different textural layers	Discussion	100
8/25/26	Nuts and Bolts 1.1: Sonic Visualizer Tutorial	Assignment	100
8/26/26	Week 2 Quiz 1: Tempo, tactus, and metric patterns	Quiz	50
8/28/26	Nuts and Bolts 2.1: Metric Hearing	Assignment	100

Date	Assignment Name	Type	Points
8/28/26	Week 2 Quiz 2: Different kinds of meter	Quiz	50
8/31/26	Module 2 Exploration: Beethoven 9 Scherzo	Discussion	100
9/1/26	Fortnightly Quiz 1- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	100
9/2/26	Nuts and Bolts 3.1: Rhythmic Durations	Assignment	25
9/2/26	Week 3 Quiz 1: Duration of note values and rests	Quiz	50
9/4/26	Week 3 Quiz 2: Time signatures and beaming	Quiz	50
9/4/26	Nuts and Bolts 3.2: Beaming and Barlines	Assignment	75
9/9/26	Week 4 Quiz 1: Pitch, half steps, and whole steps	Quiz	50
9/14/26	Nuts and Bolts 4.2: Major and Natural Minor Scales	Assignment	50
9/16/26	Nuts and Bolts 5.1: Scale Degrees and Key Signatures	Assignment	50
9/16/26	Week 5 Quiz 1: Key signatures and scales	Quiz	50

Date	Assignment Name	Type	Points
9/18/26	Nuts and Bolts 5.2: Pentatonic Scales	Assignment	50
9/21/26	Module 5 Exploration: Handel, "For Unto Us"	Assignment	100
12/2/26	Module 2 Exploration: Beethoven 9 Scherzo_Old Version	Discussion	100

Course Calendar

MUTH 1300 Fall 2026 Schedule

Module/ Week	Topics	Assignments/Practice Quizzes Due
1	Introduction to the course and Canvas Textural layers and functions	8/17: None 8/19: Syllabus Practice Quiz, Introduce yourself 8/21: Practice Quiz 1.1, install iClicker and S.Visualizer software

Module/ Week	Topics	Assignments/Practice Quizzes Due
2	Types of meter, identifying meter	8/24: Nuts&Bolts 1.1, Exploration 1 8/26: Practice Quiz 2.1 8/28: Nuts&Bolts 2.2, Practice Quiz 2
3	Notating meter	8/31: Exploration 2, <i>Fortnightly Quiz #1</i> 9/2: Practice Quiz 3.1, Nuts&Bolts 3.1 9/4: Practice Quiz 3.2, Nuts&Bolts 3.2
4	Introduction to pitch and major and natural minor scales	9/7: none (no classes) 9/9: Exploration 3, Practice Quiz 1 9/11: Nuts&Bolts 4.1
5	Key signatures, relative scales, and pentatonic scales	9/14: Nuts&Bolts 4.2 <i>Fortnightly Quiz #2</i> 9/16: Practice Quiz 5.1, Nuts&Bolts 5.1 9/18: Practice Quiz 5.2, Nuts&Bolts 5.2
6	The tonic, scale-degree functions other minor scales closely related keys	9/21: Exploration 5 9/23: Practice Quiz 6.1, Nuts&Bolts 6.1 9/25: Practice Quiz 6.2, Nuts&Bolts 6.2
7	Advanced topics in meter: unusual time signatures hypermeter extreme tempos and rubato African diatonic rhythmic modes	9/28: Exploration 6, <i>Fortnightly Quiz #3</i> 9/30: Nuts&Bolts 7.1 9/31: Practice Quiz 7.1, Nuts&Bolts 7.2

Module/ Week	Topics	Assignments/Practice Quizzes Due
8	Intervals Horizontal and vertical intervals Intervals and motives	10/5: Exploration 7 10/7: Nuts&Bolts 8.1 10/9: Nuts&Bolts 8.2, Practice Quiz 8.1
9	Consonance and dissonance Consonance and dissonance in Gagaku Consonance and dissonance in 16 th -Century European choral music	10/12: Exploration 8 <i>Fortnightly Quiz #4</i> 10/14: Nuts&Bolts 9.1 10/16: Nuts&Bolts 9.2, Practice Quiz 9.1
10	Triads Triad types Triads in inversion	10/19: Exploration 9 Oct 21: Nuts&Bolts 10.1 Oct 23: Nuts&Bolts 10.2 Practice Quiz 10.1
11	Chords in Hollywood film music Analyzing chords in a score MIDI Sequencer	Exploration 10 <i>Fortnightly Quiz</i> Oct 26: Nuts&Bolts 11.1 Oct 28: Nuts&Bolts 11.2
12	Chords in a key and the Nashville Number System	11/2: Exploration 11, part 1 11/4: Nuts&Bolts 12.1 11/6: Nuts&Bolts 12.2
13	Common chord progressions and non-chord tones	11/9 Exploration 11, part 2 <i>Fortnightly Quiz</i> 11/11: Nuts&Bolts 13.1 11/13: Nuts&Bolts 13.2

Module/ Week	Topics	Assignments/Practice Quizzes Due
14	Roman numerals and score analysis	11/16: Exploration 13 11/18: Nuts&Bolts 14.1 11/20: Nuts&Bolts 14.2
Fall Break	(no classes)	11/23: none 11/25: none 11/27: none
15	Review	11/30: <i>Fortnightly Quiz</i> 12/2: none

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

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

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

In this course, the use of GenAI tools is not permissible. The assignments are designed to guide you in learning and mastering the material, which will not be possible with generative AI. No matter the approach, any attempt to represent GenAI output as a student's own work will be considered fabrication, cheating, and/or academic dishonesty as determined on a case-by-case basis.

Course Level Practices

Learning Group

During the first two weeks of class, you will be assigned to a group of 5–6 students. This will be your learning group for the semester. Please sit with your group each class. You will sometimes complete quizzes together. In addition, some of your

explorations assignments will involve discussion forums, where you will respond to posts made by others in your group.

Late assignments and extra credit

Because the assignments are designed to help you master and synthesize the material, I do not offer extra credit for different work. Late assignments will be accepted only if you e-mail your instructor ahead of time and receive permission.

Student Success Guidance

I want everyone to learn and succeed in this course. The best way to make sure you are learning the material is to study the course materials, try the practice quizzes, and complete the homework on time. The amount of time required to complete homework will vary from student to student. It may take some an hour; it may take others more or less. I suggest that you be prepared to spend time outside class to learn the material.

If you have a general question about of your assignments, please use the Q & A forum in the Discussion Board area. This way we can all benefit from questions asked, and they can be answered in a venue that the whole class can see.

If you have a private question, please contact me via e-mail (david.heetderks@unt.edu) and I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. Please do not expect a response over the weekend.

If it is a particularly busy time, my response may be delayed. Please feel free to send a follow-up e-mail to nudge me.

Please feel free to drop in during office hours to discuss the course, or to discuss other music-related issues that interest you!

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

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.

My role as an instructor is to equip you to understand and evaluate scholarship pertaining to the topics of this course, facilitate discussions, and support critical thinking. Facts, questions, and ideas you encounter may sometimes be challenging or uncomfortable. Individuals may not always share the same viewpoints, and we should expect disagreement to be part of the learning process. At times, we may need to move on from a conversation without resolving every difference, while still treating each other with mutual respect. While we may engage in vigorous debate about competing ideas, speech that violates the Student Code of Conduct, including speech that harasses a specific individual or disrupts the course is not acceptable and works against our educational mission.

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](#).

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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](#)
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