

MUTH 1300.001: Explorations in Music

Fall 2025



Class Times:	MoWeFr 8:00am–8:50am
Class Location:	Music Building Room 301 (recital hall)
Instructor:	Dr. David Heetderks
Instructor Office:	Music Building Room 310
Instructor Office Hours:	TuTh 10–11:30am or by appointment
Instructor e-mail:	david.heetderks@unt.edu (mailto:david.heetderks@unt.edu)
Teaching assistants:	Lydia Zhao (ZijiaZhao@my.unt.edu (mailto:ZijiaZhao@my.unt.edu)) Sampson Li (SampsonLi@my.unt.edu (mailto:SampsonLi@my.unt.edu))

Welcome to Explorations in Music!

In this course, we will learn how to discuss and identify the basic materials of music by sight and by ear. These materials include basic types of meter, rhythms, pitch, pitch centricity, scales, triads, generic intervals, and types of texture, and 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.

Please Bring These Materials to Class

Paper, pencil, and pen for taking notes

Your smartphone or laptop for taking iClicker quizzes

Course Expectations and Communication with the Professor

You are expected to attend every lecture, complete the assignments on time, and contact a TA or me promptly if you are finding a particular assignment difficult.

To contact me, please e-mail david.heetderks@unt.edu (<mailto:david.heetderks@unt.edu>) from your unt.edu account. I will try to answer e-mails within 24 hours, except for on weekends. If your question is about the course schedule or logistics, first please be sure to check the syllabus and Canvas and/or ask a classmate.

You can use the Canvas site for this course to read the syllabus, keep track of your grades and assignments, access course materials such as the online textbook and handouts, and submit assignments.

You may be absent from a class because of illness, death of a close family member, religious observance, professional interview or obligation, or other circumstances beyond your control. If you work, do not schedule your working time during class meetings. If you must be absent, please contact me as soon as possible.

Course Materials

To participate in this course, you will need to create an *iClicker* account onto your laptop or smartphone. Go to this website to do so: <https://student.iclicker.com/#/account/institute> 
(<https://student.iclicker.com/#/account/institute>)

Where it asks for the Institution, enter “University of North Texas.”

After you create an account, please join the course by searching for it by name (MUTH 1300), by using our join code (<https://join.iclicker.com/PINY> ) (<https://join.iclicker.com/PINY>), or by scanning this QR code:



Some of your readings will be drawn from the online music theory textbook, *Music Theory for the 21st-Century* by Robert Hutchinson. This textbook is free and can be found here:

<https://musictheory.pugetsound.edu/mt21c/MusicTheory.html> ➞
(<https://musictheory.pugetsound.edu/mt21c/MusicTheory.html>)

Other lessons will be drawn from musictheory.net ➞ (<http://musictheory.net>).

Assignments, timeline for grading your work, and your grade

You will have these types of assignments and assessments over the course of the semester. *You may not use generative AI such as ChatGPT to complete any of these assignments:*

—Nuts and bolts assignments will help you practice essential skills in reading notes on a score, generating notes on a score and keyboard, and identifying chords, intervals, and meter. Completing these assignments and getting feedback from your graders will help ensure that you perform well on the quizzes and follow along in class.

You will receive your Nuts and Bolts grade 2–4 days after submitting the assignment.

—Exploration assignments provide you an opportunity to engage in open-ended listening or complete a creative assignment.

The exploration assignments will take 2–3 weeks to grade. Thank you for your patience!

—Online quizzes are taken on Canvas and assess how well you have mastered the skills and concepts we are working on in class. Each online quiz will have two parts:

(1) a “practice quiz” that has similar questions to the real quiz and is worth zero points. You can take the practice quiz as many times as you wish.

(2) A real quiz that you will take once you are ready. You may take the real quiz only once, and your grade on the quiz will be recorded. You must complete the quiz by the deadline. When you take the real quiz, you may not consult your notes, and you may not have any other windows open on your web browser.

After you take the real quiz, you will see your grade immediately on Canvas.

—Team readiness assessments (tRATs) are a two-stage in-class quiz that assess your understanding of what we have discussed in class the past week and the readings. The quiz is multiple choice and has two parts:

(1) In the first part, you will complete the quiz on your own using a pencil or pen.

(2) In the second part, you will gather with a team of 4–5 people, discuss the quiz questions, and collectively decide on the correct answer. After the team is sure of the answer, you will scratch it off a quiz sheet.

Your grade will be an average of the individual and team quiz. I will assign teams in the first week, and this team will remain the same throughout the semester.

You will receive your tRAT grade 1–2 days after taking the quiz.

—iClicker assessments will be brief questions given during lectures to check in our your attention and understanding. In general, you will receive full credit for participating in these assessments, but if you are not present during the lecture, you will not receive credit. I will drop the five lowest scores from your iClicker assessments, meaning that you can flub a quiz or be absent five times with impunity.

iClicker assessments will be graded immediately.

The final exam will assess the content of this entire semester. It will take place Monday, December. 8, 8–10am, in this classroom.

It is essential for you to engage critically and use your own reasoning to solve the homework problems. Doing so will maximize your learning. Hence, the use of Generative AI is not allowed for any assignments. If I learn that any of you use Generative AI for your assignments, you will receive a "0" grade and I will report the incident to the Academic Integrity Office.

Each of the above assignments will be graded on a scale of 0–100, which translates into a letter grade by this rubric:

90–100: A

80–89.9: B

70–79.9: C

60–69.9: D

Below 60: F

Each of the grades in the above categories will be averaged to give a score out of 100. The final grade will be calculated by created a weighted score that follows these proportions:

Exploration assignments	15%
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Online quizzes	20%
tRATs	15%
Nuts and Bolts	20%
iClicker quizzes	15%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

Example: Pat scored 90, 90, 0, 90, 90, and 66 on her exploration assignments. Her average grade in this category is **71**.
 She scored 80, 90, 97, 100, 80, and 75 on her online quizzes. Her average grade in this category is **87**.
 She scored 90, 90, 80, 80, and 100 on her tRATs. Her average grade in this category is **88**.
 She scored an average of **85** on her nuts and bolts assignments.
 She scored an average of **90** on her iClicker quizzes.
 She scored **82** on the final exam.

We can calculate Pat's weighted score this way:

Exploration assignments:	$71 \times 0.15 =$	10.65 points
Online quizzes:	$87 \times 0.20 =$	17.40 points
tRATs:	$88 \times 0.15 =$	13.20 points
Nuts and bolts:	$85 \times 0.20 =$	17.00 points
iClicker quizzes:	$90 \times 0.15 =$	13.50 points
Final exam:	$82 \times 0.15 =$	12.30 points
Total:	=	84.05 points

Pat's weighted score is **84.05** points, so her final grade is a **B**.

Course Schedule

The course schedule, which is subject to change, is shown below.

Wk	Date	Topics	Reading from Hutchinson or online lesson	HW Due
1	18-Aug-25	Intro & diagnostic quiz		none
	20-Aug-25	Types of meter: duple, triple, simple, compound. Downbeat and upbeat beginnings. Cues for meter. Meter can persist even when not explicitly sounding	4.4	Install iClicker on your phone or laptop
	22-Aug-25	Practice tRAT. Rhythmic values. Notating rhythms in 4/4.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfT0irsgB3Q  (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfT0irsgB3Q)  (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfT0irsgB3Q) Read 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, Sample Exercise 3	in class: ungraded tRAT on rhythmic values.
2	25-Aug-25	Time signatures and larger metric patterns.		Nuts and Bolts: Meter and rhythmic values, meter identification, barlines in simple meter
	27-Aug-25	Changing meter in Beethoven's 9th, ii. Scherzo		Exploration 1: Beethoven's 9th, Scherzo
	29-Aug-25	Rhythm reading and notation practice. Tuplets, ties, dots, syncopation. Last day to drop the course without a "W" on your transcript.	4.5, 4.6	Online quiz 1: rhythm and meter

3	1-Sep-25	No class—Labor Day		
	3-Sep-25	Introduction to African drumming		Exploration 2: Asante drumming in "Akuokuo Nisou"
	5-Sep-25	African bell patterns and their rotations.		Nuts and bolts: beaming in compound meter.
4	8-Sep-25	The major scale and natural minor scale. The keyboard. The half/whole step pattern on the keyboard.	musictheory.net lesson 10	Nuts and bolts: treble and bass clef, African bell patterns
	10-Sep-25	Accidentals. Transposing the major scale to other pitches.	1.2, 1.3, 1.4	
	12-Sep-25	Key signatures.	musictheory.net lesson 24	tRAT 1: African Bell patterns, beaming in simple and compound meters. Half steps and whole steps.
5	15-Sep-25	The tonic. What makes us hear a tonic? The tonic chord. Open and closed endings. The melodic and harmonic minor scales.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Watch videos on scales and key signatures. Nuts and Bolts: Major and natural minor scales, key signatures
	17-Sep-25	Handel, "For Unto Us" and scalar shift		Exploration 3: Handel, "For Unto Us"
	19-Sep-25	Generating melodic and harmonic minor scales. Scale degrees.		Online Quiz 2: key signatures and accidentals
6	22-Sep-25	Intervals and interval number. Interval inversion	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Read about harmonic and melodic minor scales and scale degrees. Nuts and Bolts: Scale degrees, the tonic chord, key signatures, melodic and harmonic minor
	24-Sep-25	Consonance and dissonance		Exploration 4: Categorizing intervals by consonance and dissonance

	26-Sep-25	Interval ID practice. Consonance and dissonance in musical context		tRAT 2: Scale degrees, melodic and harmonic minor, "For Unto Us"
7	29-Sep-25	Dissonance in Josquin des Prez Ave Maria		Nuts and Bolts 4: Interval construction and identification
	1-Oct-25	Rhythmic and pitch structure in Gagaku		Exploration 5: Listening to "Goshoraku no Kyu"
	3-Oct-25	Consonance and dissonance in Gagaku		Online Quiz 3: intervals, consonance, and dissonance
8	6-Oct-25	Triads. Major and minor thirds. Major, minor, diminished, augmented triads. Lead-sheet notation.	6.1, 6.2	Nuts and Bolts 5: Consonant and dissonant intervals, intervals by semitones and scale steps, major and minor thirds, triads
	8-Oct-25	Voicing triads. Identifying triads in a score.		
	10-Oct-25	Triads in inversion. Slash notation.	6.3, 6.4	Online Quiz 4: Generating and identifying triads
9	13-Oct-25	Discussion of triads in film scores		Exploration 6: Film-score response
	15-Oct-25	Film-score assignment introduction	Scott Murphy's "How to Imitate a Lot of Hollywood Music in Three Easy Steps"	Nuts and Bolts: Film-score excerpts and video on Hollywood triads
	17-Oct-25	The major-minor seventh chord and suspension chord.		tRAT 4: triads in inversion and identifying triads in a score
10	20-Oct-25	The Nashville Number system, or, could you win in a lawsuit against Radiohead?		Nuts and Bolts: Nashville number system.
	22-Oct-25	Triads in a key and Roman numerals	7.1, 7.2	Exploration 7: Two film cues
	24-Oct-25	Triads and Roman numerals in minor keys	7.3	Online Quiz 5: Triads in Nashville-number system

11	27-Oct-25	Non-chord tones: neighbor notes and passing notes	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4	Nuts and Bolts: Roman-numeral and Nashville-number chord analysis. Identifying non-chord tones
	29-Oct-25	Non-chord tones: suspensions	10.9, 10.10	
	31-Oct-25	Review of RN analysis and NCTs.		tRAT 5: Roman numerals and Nashville Numbers
12	3-Nov-25	Important chord progressions: ii-V-I and ii6-V-I		Nuts and Bolts: Writing chord progressions
	5-Nov-25	Important chord progressions: the axis progression		Online Quiz 6: non-chord tones
	7-Nov-25	No Class (Society for Music Theory Conference). Last day to drop this course with a grade of "W".		
13	10-Nov-25	Types of texture: homophonic, melody/acc., contrapuntal, monophonic	14.1	Nuts and Bolts: Identifying chords in different types of textures
	12-Nov-25	Types of texture: melody/accompaniment	14.2, 14.3	
	14-Nov-25	Types of texture: contrapuntal and imitative	David Bennett "Introduction to Counterpoint"	tRAT 6: Important chord progressions
14	17-Nov-25	Cadences	7.4	
	19-Nov-25	Fitting a chord progression to a melody		Exploration 8: Roadmap of Handel, "Allelujah" chorus
	21-Nov-25	Fitting a chord progression to a melody		tRAT 7: types of texture
	24-Nov-25	No class (Fall Break)		
	26-Nov-25	No class (Fall Break)		
	28-Nov-25	No class (Fall Break)		

15	1-Dec-25	Review of cadences and melodies		Exploration 9: Melody and chord progression
	3-Dec-25	Pre-finals day: review		
		Final Exam: Monday, December 8, 8–10 am		

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> ➞ <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> ➞ <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: <https://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. (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>  (<https://registrar.unt.edu/students>)

Academic Calendar, Fall 2025

See: Spring 2025 Academic Calendar

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2025-academic-calendar.pdf> 
(<https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2025-academic-calendar.pdf>)

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2025

See above

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 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> ➞ [_.\(http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap\)](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/> ➞ [_\(http://ferpa.unt.edu/\)](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> ➞ [_\(http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services\)](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> ➦ <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/spring-academic-calendar.html> ➦ <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-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> ➦ <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-teama> ➦ <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Aug 20, 2025	 iClicker 8.20 (Poll) (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/128325/assignments/2797442)	due by 9am
Mon Aug 25, 2025	 N&B 1: Rhythmic Values and Intro to Meter (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/128325/assignments/2795933)	due by 8am
Wed Aug 27, 2025	 Exploration 1: Changing Moods in Beethoven's 9th, ii (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/128325/assignments/2802166)	due by 8am