

SYLLABUS FOR L-335 GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Monday and Wednesday Full Rehearsals, 6:00 – 7:00pm, MU262

Tuesday and Thursday sectionals (guitars only), 6:00 – 7:00pm, MU262

Ivan Gygi, instructor

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Course Objectives:

- 1) To play intricate guitar ensemble arrangements and achieve an ensemble balance comparable to a big band saxophone section
- 2) To improve improvisation skills in a guitar ensemble context
- 3) To improve reading and stylistic interpretation in a variety of jazz styles
- 4) To arrange one professional level guitar ensemble piece—a standard or original composition

Ensemble Playing:

One of the primary objectives of guitar ensemble is for guitarists to have a comparable experience to horn players who play in sections in big bands and other ensembles. Guitarists tend to work alone, or possibly in duo, and don't get to work on blending as an ensemble. The arrangements we will play in this ensemble are largely concerned with achieving ensemble blend on chord voicings that would be impossible to execute on one guitar.

Soloing:

We will also, of course, be improvising quite a bit, and this class will also involve me demonstrating playing strategies on the tunes in our repertoire.

Student Arrangements:

You have one major project for the semester - arrange or compose a piece for guitar ensemble (5 guitars, bass, and drums). We will discuss various techniques for arranging in class, but most of the standard techniques that you learn writing for saxophone section apply to guitar. You can get individual instruction through your private lessons as well. These arrangements must be computer notated, with a score for the instructor. More information will be given on this as the semester unfolds.

Sectionals:

This ensemble meets twice a week as a full group, but the five guitarists will also be required to have two sectional per week, without rhythm section. Learning how to utilize time productively in a sectional is an important skill. I will typically attend sections but often you will be expected to run sectionals on your own in a professional manner. These sectionals should be used to practice ensemble parts—blending, accuracy, etc.

Performances/Attendance:

The 335 Ensemble will perform several times over the course of the semester. Attendance at performances (see **important dates** below), and in class, is *mandatory*, meaning if you miss you most likely will not pass. You are allowed one unexcused absence in class. After that, your grade drops one letter per each unexcused absence. In the case of illness, and unforeseen conflicts and circumstances I am willing to make accommodations, but especially regarding performances, realize that we need all seven members of the ensemble present at all times to make the music happen. Of course.

Solid-body/Archtop/Pedals:

If you have a solid-body guitar, consider using it instead of your archtop. Solid and semi-hollow guitars tend to blend better in a guitar ensemble context. We may use some effects in the ensemble, but the primary goal is for us to sound like one instrument, so be judicious in your use of effects vis a vis your neighbor.

Important Dates:

Tuesday, January 21st: Guitar ensembles at the Syndicate, 9-midnight

Friday, February 7th: 335 Guitar Ensemble lunch show, 12-1pm

Tuesday, March 24th: Guitar ensembles at the Syndicate, 9-midnight

Grading:

Your grade in this class is based on your attendance (33.3%), your preparation of your parts (33.3%), and on your arrangement (33.3%).

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, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

LINK: <http://faculty.success.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

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. (*Also see below, UNT Care Team*)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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 Office of Disability Accommodation.

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

2017-2018 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

Link: <http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=17&navoid=1737>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2017-2018

Link: <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2017-18/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

Link: <http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring>

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 registered hours per term. 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 being doing so.

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.

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 Blackboard 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.

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

RESPONDING TO STUDENTS IN DISTRESS: UNT CARE TEAM

Please visit the CARE Team website to tips to recognize students in distress and what you need to do in cases of extreme behavior or references to suicide.

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>