



MUJS 3360 – ADVANCED JAZZ IMPROV I
(MUJS 5370 – GRADUATE REVIEW OF JAZZ IMPROVISATION)
MU262 | T/Th 9:35 - 10:55 am

Dave Meder

Associate Professor of Jazz Piano | MU123

Office Hours: BY APPT via Calendar Link

www.davemeder.com | dave.meder@unt.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is the third in a four-semester sequence for jazz instrumental emphasis students. As such, we begin with a review of the bebop fundamentals covered extensively in the previous course, then we consider new post-bop applications, stylistic and rhythmic variations, and harmonic substitutions.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no textbook required for this course. All materials will be provided via Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

EMAIL AND CANVAS USE:

The instructor uses Canvas notifications to communicate with the class. Please ensure that these are enabled and are forwarded to your email application if necessary. It is expected that you use your **UNT** email address for all correspondence related to your degree. Any university-related questions emailed to Prof. Meder from your personal email address, through Instagram or any other social media platform, or through SMS (text messaging) will not receive a response.

Furthermore, you must check your **UNT** email **DAILY**. All inquiries from Prof. Meder (or any other professor or administrator) **should be responded to within 24 hours**.

GRADING:

Your grade is determined by the following criteria.

25%: Assignments

25%: Exam 1

25%: Exam 2

25%: Exam 3

The final grade is determined by the following scale:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = below 60%.

Grades that are **one point or less** below a cutoff **can be rounded up** at the sole discretion of the instructor based on a student's overall attendance record and level of effort. For example, a final grade of 89.1 or even 89.0 *can* be rounded up in the case of a clearly hard-working and consistently attending student. This is at the sole discretion of the instructor. However, in no scenario can an 88.9 be rounded up, and the instructor will simply refer you to this policy.

The low weighting of assignments relative to exams is deliberate. A successful improviser must be able to execute and "speak" in the moment. The assignments are useful tasks that lead the student towards that goal, but regular attendance and assignment completion are not enough to pass the course. You prove mastery of the material primarily via the exams.

All course material is organized into modules on Canvas. The assignments within each module have listed due dates, **but they can be submitted for full credit at any point up to the exam for that module**. Assignments submitted by the listed due date receive extra credit. Students are encouraged (and incentivized) to keep up with the listed deadlines, as the course moves quickly. However, this flexible submission structure acknowledges different learning styles and paces. See the specific Canvas assignments for more details.

Exams are the most important and heavily weighted part of the course. You are permitted to retake each exam **one (1) time** for a higher score. The instructor will count the higher of both scores, i.e. there is no risk to attempting a retake.

The designated retake day is the first day of finals week. Please ensure you plan any holiday travel with that in mind.

Attendance is not directly factored into any of these grading criteria. It is assumed you will attend the course meetings. You can skip **three meetings** with no questions asked and no notification required. Each unexcused absence **after the THIRD** will lower your **final grade** by 5%, regardless of performance in any of the above criteria. This is a generous attendance policy that allows you to miss approximately 10% of class meetings with no questions asked. So, after your third absence, the policy is strictly enforced.

Excused absences are, of course, always permitted with reasonable cause and ample notice (when possible). **These absences do not count towards the three unexcused absences.** Please email the instructor to clear these in advance, or as soon as possible after-the-fact in case of emergency. Please provide documentation/verification.

For any missed classes, **you** are responsible for covering missed material and obtaining handouts. All class handouts are posted on Canvas. If you feel overwhelmed in any way, or if you are dealing with something that is causing you to miss a significant amount of class, the best thing to do is speak with the instructor as soon as possible, **not at the end of the semester**.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is organized and presented on Canvas. It is subject to change at any times with notice.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

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://vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/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.

LINK: Student Code of 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.

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)

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/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.