



University of North Texas
College of Music
Division of Jazz Studies
MULB 1808.504
Four O'Clock Lab Band

COURSE INFORMATION

Welcome to the Four O'Clock Lab Band where we will work hard, have fun, and create music!

Class Meetings: Monday – Thursday, 3:00-3:50 P.M.

Class Location: Lab East MU 263

Instructor Contact Information

Director: Eric Hitt **Faculty Mentor:** Alan Baylock

Email: erichitt@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to hone skills in teaching, implementing and exercising the necessary concepts of performing and rehearsing in a large jazz ensemble. Members will learn to embrace their specific role as part of their section and ultimately part of the lab band to create a unified sound.

Attendance

The Four O'Clock Lab Band rehearses daily (Monday through Thursday) for 50 minutes. In the instance of an emergency or illness, (excused absence), substitutes may be sent a maximum of six times during a semester (three times for students who play only twice a week) according to the following guidelines:

1. The substitute is qualified (currently enrolled at North Texas, preferably playing in the next higher or lower band).
2. Twenty-four hours advance notice must be given, except in the case of a verifiable illness or emergency.
3. **The music folder must be at the rehearsal.**
4. All other absences (unexcused) will lower the student's semester grade by a letter. Students will receive one free unexcused absence if for a good reason deemed beyond the student's control.

In addition, there are on- and off-campus performances scheduled for the Lab Bands throughout each semester. Attendance for these performances and related dress rehearsals is mandatory.

5. Whether an absence is excused or unexcused is at the discretion of the director. Excused absences **MUST** be approved.

Punctuality

Be on time for all rehearsals and performances. You are expected to be set up, warmed up, tuned up, seated and ready to play. Rehearsal will begin promptly at 3:00. Tardiness will lower your grade.

Preparation and Equipment

You are expected to have practiced and be prepared to play any chart in the book at any rehearsal or performance.

For rehearsals:

Trumpets - Flugelhorn double, cup, harmon and plunger mutes

Trombones - Cup and plunger mutes

Saxophones - Soprano saxophone, flute and clarinet doubles

Lead Alto must bring piccolo when needed.

Baritone Sax should have access to bass clarinet, bringing it when needed.

Guitar/Bass - All necessary patch cords and effects.

Drums - cymbals, bass drum pedal, sticks, brushes and mallets.

For performances: Appropriate dress, as determined before each performance.

All section leaders are required to hold a weekly sectional lasting 50 minutes, located in the school of music. All section members must attend. Please notify me where and when your sectional will be. The director may check in on sectionals unannounced. Visit this link to learn how to schedule a weekly time:

<https://music.unt.edu/sites/all/uploads/facultyhandbook/Quick%20Guide%20to%20Reserving%20Rooms%20for%20Small%20Ensembles.pdf>

Music Folders: Charts and folders are the responsibility of each student. Music must be properly cared for and brought to all rehearsals and performances. A fee of \$1.00 per double page will be charged for the replacement of all lost parts. A fee of \$50.00 for any lab band folder that is lost.

Grading Criteria

You will be graded on the quality and consistency of your musical preparation in rehearsals and public performance. Your professional attitude, as it affects the ensemble, will also be a consideration.

Fall 2019 Performances**September**

18 (Wednesday) Syndicate, Denton, 9:00 pm – Midnight, arrive at 9:00 pm to listen to Three O'Clock, take stage at 10:15 pm

October

10 (Thursday) Syndicate, Denton, 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, rhythm sound check 11:00 am, full band sound check 11:15 am

November

6 (Wednesday) Syndicate, Denton, 9:00 pm – Midnight, sound check 8:00 pm

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I look at my cell phone during rehearsal, even if I'm not playing at the moment?
 - a. No, it is disrespectful to your colleagues and director to not give your full attention during rehearsal. Instead, mentally rehearse your music or think of ways your section could improve its sound.
2. I've played this piece before, why do I have to play it again?
 - a. In jazz music, no two performances of the same piece will sound exactly the same. Take the opportunity to create music with a different group of people. Depending on the chart, it could be a classic that you will play for the rest of your life, so get used to it.
3. Do I have to practice the music outside of rehearsal, or can I just wing it and hope no one will notice?
 - a. Practicing your music outside of your rehearsal makes it easier to play the music. Once everyone can play the notes and rhythms, the ensemble is able to dive deeper into shaping a piece.
4. Do I need to listen to the music outside of rehearsal, or can I just play it the way I want to?
 - a. Sure, everyone wants to give their own personal stamp to the music. In many cases, legendary ensembles have given us pristine recordings of their music. Why wouldn't you want to hear how the composer intended for their piece to be played? After listening to it you are better able to develop an informed interpretation.
5. Why does the director spend large chunks of rehearsal focusing on one section?

- a. Whether it be a section of the music or a section in the band, sometimes one section requires a bit of extra attention and focus. Consider how what the director is saying applies to your section, or how the attention to this detail in the piece applies to the whole.
6. Why does the director ask us questions instead of telling us the answer?
 - a. My goal as an educator is to teach my students to teach themselves. As soon as you are able to find the solution the problem without my help, my job is done!
7. Why is the music so easy?
 - a. If you are asking this question, ask yourself if you've done everything in your power to serve the music. Music is not about playing the fastest licks, the hardest passages, or the flashiest charts. Sometimes the "easy" music is not so easy if you consider musicality. It's not just about playing the right notes.
8. Why don't I get to solo as much as I would like to?
 - a. In some cases, the director may have a reason. In other cases, it may be an issue of programming, or maybe the director just forgot to give you a solo. Feel free to talk to the director outside of rehearsal to see what can be done.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is subject to change with notice.

UNT POLICIES**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

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

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

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity

[https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub 8_18_0.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub%208_18_0.pdf)

2019-2020 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2019-2020

<https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2019-20/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

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

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>. For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is: Myriam Reynolds
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741 Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

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. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed "Request to Drop" form to the Registrar's Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall, 2019 is November 4th. Information about add/drop may be found at: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

ADD/DROP POLICY

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf