



University of North Texas
College of Music
Division of Jazz Studies
MUAC 3538.700
Jazz Bass Lessons

COURSE INFORMATION

Jazz bass lessons will be offered after successful completion of the classical upper division exam, MUJS 1131 Jazz Perf Fund I (for bass) section 502, MUJS 1132 Jazz Perf Fund II (for bass) section 502 and passing of the ICE exam.

Class Meetings: 11 Weekly 50-minute lessons, one final jury during dead week, one group listening session, and the jazz bass departmental meetings and performance

Class Location: Lessons in Bain 217

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Eric Hitt **Faculty Mentor:** Lynn Seaton

Email: erichitt@my.unt.edu

Cell Phone: (715) 450-5643

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to hone skills in jazz bass performance. Objectives include: developing a good pizzicato and arco sound, developing a good time feel, expanding understanding of the role of the bass in jazz through transcription, jazz repertoire and sight-reading, study of standard tunes in depth through chords, melodies, scales, and arpeggio analysis, developing technical facility necessary to achieve comfortability and confidence, and developing musicality to contribute to any performance situation.

Attendance

Lesson Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Two missed lessons without advance notice and permission of the instructor will result in the grade being lowered one degree. If the instructor must miss a lesson, a makeup will be scheduled. There will be no makeup lessons for unexcused student absences. See the Departmental attendance policy above.

Dialogue

In the words of Prof. Seaton, "An important part of learning is an open dialogue between the teacher and the student. Please feel free to call me or stop me in the hall to discuss anything." This applies to Eric as well.

All students are expected to activate their Eaglemail account that is provided by the university; Eaglemail is the official e-mail account and e-mail contact for all students at UNT. An Eaglemail account can be activated on the web at my.unt.edu then click on [Activate my EUID]. If needed, I will email you this way.

Departmental Performances

All students who are enrolled in jazz bass lessons will be expected to perform in jazz bass departmental at least once per semester. Come and lead a rehearsed group of your choice. At least one tune should be a bass feature where you play the melody. Turn in the information sheet to the program office at least one week before your departmental. Plan on a 30-minute performance. You will need to bring all necessary equipment for your performance including extension cords, amps, drums, and a recording device. A piano will be provided. You will be expected to record your performance and write a 1- or 2-page analysis of the concert after you listen to the recording. Turn that analysis in to Eric within a week. It is your responsibility to bring any type of recording device you choose. Please try to set up as quickly as possible so that the performance can begin. After the performance, there will be an open discussion about it. All attendees are encouraged to participate in this discussion. Comments may include suggestions for a better performance and praise. Be an observant listener. Look for many things including technique, posture, musicality, tone, harmonic ideas, bass lines, soloing, group interaction, communication, and etcetera.

Departmental Attendance Policy

Attendance at weekly departmental recitals is mandatory for all jazz bass majors. Students who have a regular conflict at this hour may be excused for the semester. Please provide your class schedule or other explanation to Lynn Seaton within the first week of classes. For those enrolled in jazz bass lessons, three or more unexcused absences will result in a lowering of a full letter grade. Excused absences are routinely granted for illness with an excuse coming from the Health Center or your doctor within 48 hours after missing class. Individual excused absences for other reasons must be cleared in advance. If you cannot attend one of the classes, let Lynn Seaton know in advance. I am flexible and understanding, just communicate with me on a professional level.

Punctuality

Be on time for all lessons and meetings.

Materials:

- Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, are great resources for consuming music but are not great for the artists whose music sustains them. These services are great for listening to a lot of different music and versions of tunes. Please consider purchasing a physical (or digital) copy of your favorite albums to keep for good!
- A metronome or metronome app (drumgenius is great too)
- Manuscript paper
- A stereo system or Bluetooth speaker to play music on for pleasure and study (headphones are helpful in a different way)

- A recorder is helpful to record music and your own practicing (your phone or other handheld recorder). We may record you or some music to learn. Keep it with you for all lessons.
- A folder for collecting materials such as music, transcriptions, recordings, assignments and tune list.

Assignments

Much of class time will be spent on several areas of development. Among them are jazz standard repertoire, major and minor modes and other jazz scales, arpeggios, proper posture and body awareness, proper sound production, pizzicato and arco techniques, transcription of recorded materials, walking bass lines, written and improvised solo conception.

1. Choose a complete album on which the assigned bassist appears. Listen to it in its entirety. Learn the names of all the players and survey the playing/recording history of each bassist. Choose a track from the album to work with. Transcribe the melody with chord changes (without referencing a lead sheet), a minimum of eight measures of the bass line (preferably a chorus), and a minimum of eight measures of any solo (preferably a chorus). Write these out by hand and commit one or more of them to memory. Perform on the assigned week. If available, find a video of the assigned bassist playing you enjoy.
2. Scales and arpeggios at different tempos and with different feels. A few scales and arpeggios will be selected for you to perform at the beginning of each lesson, as assigned.
3. Rhythm changes and blues at different tempos as assigned. A few keys and tempos will be selected for you to perform at the beginning of each lesson, as assigned.

KEEP A LOG OF YOUR TUNES AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS ON THE BACK OF THE JURY SHEET IN THE SYLLABUS. BRING THAT SHEET FILLED OUT TO YOUR JURY AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

Grading

Your grade will be based out of 100 points as follows:

1. Departmental performance and analysis (10 points)
2. Weekly lessons (65 points)
3. Jazz Bass Listening Session (5 points)
4. Final jury – Perform and assignment of your choice from a given week. Another assignment will be randomly selected. Perform what you worked on for those two given weeks, and briefly discuss the album you chose and the assigned bassist. (20 points)
5. **MINIMUM GRADE:** A minimum grade of "B" is required of all jazz studies majors.

Lesson Schedule

In addition to the scheduled assignments, students are encouraged to ask for help on anything.

1. Orientation: Role of the Bassist. Developing a great sound. Pizzicato technique exercise.
2. Ray Brown + major scales and arpeggios
3. Paul Chambers + natural minor scales and arpeggios
4. Israel Crosby + harmonic minor scales and arpeggios
5. Ron Carter + melodic minor scales and arpeggios
6. Scott LaFaro + diminished scales and arpeggios
7. Sam Jones + blues scale
8. Jimmy Blanton + blues form
9. Oscar Pettiford + rhythm changes form
10. Jaco Pastorius + chromatic scale
11. SPOT, Summary and other student questions.
12. Final Jury- You pick one week's assignment to perform, another picked at random and perform the weeks' assignments.
13. Required listening session to be scheduled on a Saturday sometime in the semester with all students in jazz lessons.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

These evaluations are taken very seriously by administration for my continuance/advancement as a teacher and for salary considerations. Please consider this short survey as a part of this class. Results are not made available to me until after grades are posted. Your thoughts and opinions help me to be a better teacher and often reinforce the effectiveness of how I run classes.

The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester until the week before finals to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. There may be time scheduled to complete this during our class, but if not, please complete it on your own. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

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

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.pdf

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

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-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/spring>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates and Graduates

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

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

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

COUNSELING AND TESTING

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 Spring, 2020 is March 30th. Information about add/drop may be found at: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-add-drop>

STUDENT RESOURCES

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

College of Music
University of North Texas

Jazz Bass Jury Examination
Petition for Acceptance and Continuance in Applied Music (Jazz)
Undergraduate Degrees

Name _____ Date: _____

Major _____

MUAC Level (circle one) 3500

Permission for Acceptance of Continuance Approved: YES () NO ()

Evidence of continuing maturity in technical, musical and performing skills must be demonstrated in the jury at the conclusion of each long semester. Students who do not meet these requirements must be advised of their deficiencies by their applied instructor, Area Coordinator or Division Chair as is appropriate.

JURY GRADE _____

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

JURY MEMBERS:*

1) _____ (Chair)	4) _____
2) _____	5) _____
3) _____	6) _____

*a decision for continuance requires the signature of the jury chair only; denial requires the signature of each jury member

Original to: Undergraduate Advising Office

Semester Repertoire (List the jazz compositions studied and learned this semester)

These columns to be filled in by the student		Check these columns and Instructor will circle jury tunes.				
Title	Composer	Melody	Arp.	Scales	Time/ walking	Solo

Complete bassline and solo Transcription(s) you did yourself.

Title

Performer

Recording

Other pre transcribed solos, Etudes, technical studies, patterns, and other things Studied this Semester

Departmental Program Information – Plan on a 30-minute performance to allow time for discussion.

Return this form to the Program Office at least one week prior to performance.

This information is for ASCAP and the UNT archives.

No programs will be printed for distribution at the departmental.

Your
Name_____

Date of the Departmental
(M/D/Y)_____

List the names of the musicians and instruments they play.

Tune_____

Composer_____

Year of
Composition_____

Tune_____

Composer_____

Year of
Composition_____

Tune_____

Composer_____

Year of
Composition_____

(Optional 4th)
Tune_____

Composer_____

Year of
Composition_____