



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 below.

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. Plan on recording videos of two tunes as an acapella solo bass performance. You will share them via the Zoom at during the weekly meeting. Turn in the information sheet to the program office at least one week before your departmental. 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. 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, etc.

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 or Eric know in advance. We are flexible and understanding, just communicate on a professional level.

COVID-19 impact on attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomtesting/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

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 chosen 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. You may revise after completion.), transcribe or compose a chorus of applicable bass accompaniment, transcribe or compose a chorus of a solo, and prepare applicable scales and arpeggios with a metronome. Memorization is encouraged for some aspect of your prepared material. Be prepared to improvise a solo and bass line from memory. In most situations, be prepared to play the tune in any key. Perform your prepared material in your lesson. If available, find a video of the assigned bassist playing you enjoy.
 - a. Choose from the list on Canvas or another bassist with prior permission from the instructor.
2. Semester-long transcription project: transcribe a bassist from the list note for note on a track of your choice. Make progress each week in a consistent manner that allow you to perform the transcription at your end of semester jury. Show your progress at each lesson. Prepare your transcription in digital notation, although you may first write out in pencil if preferred.

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 (50)
3. Transcription Project (15)
4. Jazz Bass Listening Session (5 points)
5. Final jury – Perform your semester-long transcription project and perform one of your weekly assignments, chosen at random. (20 points)
6. **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. Goal Setting.
2. Assignment 1
3. Assignment 2
4. Assignment 3
5. Assignment 4
6. Assignment 5
7. Assignment 6
8. Assignment 7
9. Assignment 8
10. Assignment 9
11. SPOT, Summary, and end of semester transcription.
12. Final Jury- Perform transcription project and an assignment picked at random from the semester.
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

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.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub%208_18.pdf)

2020-2021 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates) <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021 <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/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

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