

Avenue C

MULB 1820.502/5174.524

Fall 2025



INSTRUCTOR: Liz Townsend

EMAIL: liztownsend@my.unt.edu

PHONE: (315) 491-3441

OFFICE: Bain 219

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

OBJECTIVES

- Develop technical proficiency within the context of a vocal jazz ensemble and beyond
- Expand stylistic knowledge of the many sub-genres within the vocal jazz idiom
- Understand and appreciate the rich and varied traditions of the vocal jazz ensemble
- Cultivate skills of professionalism needed to sustain a career in music
- Contribute positively towards a supportive music-making environment

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Arrive ON TIME, warmed up, and prepared with music and a pencil
 - All students are expected to arrive 5-10 minutes before the start of rehearsal time in order to be set up and ready to make music when rehearsal begins
- Practice outside of scheduled rehearsals to master individual parts
 - After initial rehearsal on any given piece, note-plunking will not occur during rehearsal time. It is the responsibility of the student to come to rehearsals with their part learned
- Rehearse with patience, persistence, kindness, and respect for yourself and others
- Be present, focused, and prepared for all rehearsals and performances
- Leave personal problems and concerns at the door when you enter rehearsal
- Actively mark music with pencil throughout each rehearsal. All notes given by director and/or section leaders MUST be marked in your music
- Perform at your highest level at each rehearsal and performance
- Vocalists - Audiate your music while director is working with other sections
- Keep phones/tablets/smart watches/etc. in "do not disturb" mode during rehearsals
- Participate in the set up/tear down of the sound system
- Maintain and use all ensemble equipment responsibly, including audio equipment, instruments, sheet music, and folders (there is a \$40 replacement fee for lost or damaged folders)

STUDENTS CAN EXPECT THE DIRECTOR TO:

- Be prepared to lead productive rehearsals
- Communicate directly and honestly with passion and compassion for each individual
- Be a facilitator of a positive ensemble environment
- Hold all students to a high musical and personal standard
- Give fair and reasonable assignments
- Make time to listen to concerns or comments on anything related to the ensemble at a mutually agreed-upon appointment time

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be weighed accordingly:

- Attendance/Preparedness: 70% (see attendance policy below)
- Assignments: 20%
- Teamwork/Attitude: 10%

Late work:

- 1-2 days late = 25% reduction
- 3-7 days late = 50% reduction
- 8+ days late = no credit

Grading scale:

- A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=0-59%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In an ensemble like this one, 100% attendance is expected unless you are seriously ill or have an emergency.

- Unexcused absences are not permitted. The first unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your grade by half a letter grade. Any subsequent unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your grade by a full letter grade.
- If you must be absent, please EMAIL the director 48 HOURS PRIOR to the missed rehearsal for it to be an excused absence.
 - When you are absent, it is your responsibility to arrange to have someone in your section record rehearsal so you can catch up and be prepared to return
- In the case of an emergency absence/tardiness, please text the director at (315) 491-3441. All other written communication with director should take place via UNT email
- All performances and the retreat dates are mandatory
- Tardiness is unacceptable. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence
- Rhythm Section: let the director know ASAP if you must miss a rehearsal. if you are to miss a rehearsal, you must provide a sub for the rehearsal who is equal or above your playing level. You must also make sure that sub has your music folder.

REQUIRED DATES & PERFORMANCES

Times are subject to change - keep your schedule open these days. Please write these dates into your calendar as they are mandatory; attending these dates is part of your grade.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday, September 13 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Avenue C Retreat	Music Building, TBD
Sunday, October 5 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Denton Arts & Jazz Festival	Quakertown Park
Friday, October 17 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Set @ The Syndicate (11:00 load-in, 12:00 music)	The Syndicate Student Union
Tuesday, October 28 7:00 - 11:30 PM	All Vocal Jazz Ensembles @ The Syndicate	The Syndicate Student Union
Friday, November 14 All day (detailed schedule TBD)	Vocal Jazz Extravaganza (All vocal jazz ensembles performing)	Voertman Hall

REQUIRED CONCERTS FOR JAZZ MAJORS

(ALL CONCERTS TAKE PLACE IN VOERTMAN HALL)

- Latin Jazz Lab Fall Concert - Saturday, November 1 at 8:00 PM
- Jazz Strings Fall Concert - Monday, November 3 at 8:00 PM
- Two and Three O'Clock Lab Band Fall Concert - Monday, November 10 at 8:00 PM
- Jazz Singers Fall Concert - Friday, November 14 at 8:00 PM
- One O'Clock Fall Concert (Pasquale Grasso, guest artist) - Monday, November 17, 8:00 PM

RESOURCES & POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy - <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>
 Dean of Students - <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>
 Access to Information (Eagle Connect) - eagleconnect.unt.edu
 Office of Disability Access - disability.unt.edu
 Diversity and Belonging - <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>
 Registration Information for Students - <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>
 Academic Calendar Fall 2025 - <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>
 Health and Safety Information - <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>
 Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress, undergrad - <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>
 Retention of Student Records - <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>
 Counseling and Testing - <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>
 Mental Health Resources - <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>
 Add/Drop Policy - <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>
 Student Resources - <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>
 Care Team - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>