

MUCO 1200 - Analysis and Critical Listening in Music Production and Commercial Music

Syllabus – Spring 2026

Meets on: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11–12.20a, MUSI 258

Instructor: Federico Llach // federico.llach@unt.edu

Special events:

August Ponthier Residency, in-person Feb 11

-> also see overall [August Ponthier Residency schedule](#) (requires UNT sign-in)

Course Description:

This course focuses on developing listening and analytical skills in a variety of popular music styles from the 1960's to the present day in a variety of music genres. The course will explore how the workflows and techniques of producing commercial releases have changed throughout different periods, based on multiple factors including the development of new aesthetics, self-expression of multiple identities and shifts in the music industry. By investigating the procedures of influential producers and musicians of the past and present, the student will gain a greater vocabulary and conceptual understanding that will allow them to increase their awareness of how a sonic vision for a production is attained.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn about pivotal changes in music production. For this purpose, students will analyze journalistic and contemporary academic writing about changes in Music Production and will inquire how these changes shape or are influenced by changes in the Music Industry. Students will synthesize and evaluate the readings by voicing their own ideas during discussion groups and discussion posts. (Core LO: Critical Thinking)
- Students will analyze commercially released sound recordings as statements that portray the Music Production techniques discussed in class. In reaction posts throughout the course and during their Final Presentation, students will communicate their findings of their analysis both orally and in writing, following Standard English conventions and notions of cohesion and discourse organization principles. (Core LO: Communication)

- Students will engage with community beliefs and behaviors other than their own by examining and articulating their insights on the role that collective creation and socio-economical contexts play at the genesis and development of key musical genres in Popular Music. For this purpose, students will acknowledge and apply diverse perspectives as they relate to ethics and aesthetics of Music Production. (Core LO: Social Responsibility)
- Working as a part of a team, students will participate in frequent in-class group activities and also complete a final creative project consisting of the Analysis of an Album produced in the last 15 years. Throughout these activities, students will reflect frequently on how best to contribute to a group; prepare and collaborate with a team; foster a constructive team climate; and respond to feedback constructively. (Core LO: Teamwork)

Course requirements:

A 3-credit course means a nine-hour commitment. Three of those hours we will spend in class. This means you should be prepared to spend up to 6 weekly hours outside of class working on assignments and going over material.

Electronic devices are not permitted during lectures, unless explicitly allowed by the instructor. Browsing the internet or social media will not only make you lose your focus; it will also harm your grade.

Assignments and and Grading:

Assignments and Grading

Main projects: 36%

Other assignments: 18%

Reports: 18%

Class posts: 18%

Attendance: 18%

The 3 lowest grades for Reports and Class posts will be dropped before averaging that category.

Grade Equivalence

The grade of "A" will be assigned for excellent academic work. A grade of "B" will be assigned for good work. A grade of "C" will be assigned for fair work. A grade of "D" will be assigned for work that minimally passes. A grade of "F" will be assigned for failing work. Grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

0-59% F

(<http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/understand-your-grade-report>)

Policies:

Participation and attendance:

Do not use computers, phones, or other electronic devices for non class-related activities (social media, shopping, work for other classes, etc.) during class meetings.

More than 2 absences will affect your participation grade.

Late work:

Submit your work on time.

All projects have a strict deadline and are not available for submission after their due date.

Communication and submissions:

All submissions will be via Canvas.

If you need to contact me, email me at federico.llach@unt.edu, with the subject: "Analysis and Critical Listening – your email subject". You can expect a reply within 24 hours.

Materials:

- Canvas: Students will need access to Canvas to receive announcements, view course readings and assignments, and submit much of their work.
- A subscription to a music streaming service that allows you to play any song in the catalog (as opposed to only playing playlist or radio only). The course playlists will be posted as Spotify playlists, but if you are already subscribed to a different service you can look up the songs in your service of choice.
- Good quality headphones or studio monitors to be able to exercise detailed listening.

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard

- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

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 (Office of Academic Integrity), 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.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <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.

See: [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 Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

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

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at:

<https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Spring Academic Calendar Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Semester Calendar, Spring 2026

See: [Spring Semester Calendar](#)

Link:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026

See above

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 hours registered. 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 before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

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.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

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 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.

See: [FERPA](#)

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

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

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. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information:

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

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>