

# Course Syllabus

## MUCO 2900-700

### Creative Practice in the Music Industry

Tuesdays/Thursdays 2pm - 3:20pm, Room 287

**PROFESSOR JEFFREY HEPKER**

**EMAIL:** jeffrey.hepker@unt.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** (will be posted by week 2 after studio assignments)

#### Course Overview:

This course is designed to help a student better understand a larger picture of the music industry, as well as help them form ideas of where they might find a best fit.

Emphasis will be placed on learning and experiencing anticipated workflows across a wide range of commercial music categories. Examples could be touring and studio musician, music supervisor, musical director, media composer, producer, singer-songwriter, etc.

Students will also workshop and develop their approach to finding and securing employment within the music industry.

#### Course Objectives / Student Learning Outcomes:

In completing this course, students will:

- Follow various musical projects from start to finish, including a music score for film, a concert which requires tech/location notes and advertising, and a studio recording where producer and a recording engineer are guiding the technical and creative workflow.
- Show awareness of many types of professions in the music industry which are less commonly known.
- Gain experience with best practices for giving and receiving creative and technical feedback, for time/project management, and for studio/performance etiquette.
- Be able to illustrate and appraise the effect of copyright laws on the musical arts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of principles of current music business, including Sound Exchange, copyright/publishing laws, and the Music Modernization Act.
- Define and compile a list of contacts in the music industry

#### GRADED ASSESSMENTS

- assignments (research and writing)
- participation: in-class
- participation: attendance (3 unexcused absences lowers one letter grade, 5 unexcused absences lowers two letter grades, 6 or more is an automatic fail)
- participation: online discussions and reflections
- final project
- quizzes
- career workshops

## GRADING PERCENTAGES

- Assignments: 20%
- Participation: 10%
- Final Project: 20%
- Group Discussions: 5%
- Personal Reflections: 10%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Career Workshops: 15%
- Attendance: 10%

## Credit Load:

This course carries a 3 hour credit load. Students should expect to spend additional 6 hours each week outside of class preparing. Some weeks will require more time spent working outside of class than others and actual time spent may vary depending on previous experience and knowledge.

## Homework:

All work is due on the date indicated in the course schedule. Turning in homework late will lower the grade you earn on assignments and projects.

## Grading Scale:

A: 90-100; B: 80-90; C 70-80; D: 60-70; F: below 60

## ATTENDANCE, DRAFTS, LATE WORK AND EXTENSION POLICIES:

This is a highly interactive class. There is no replacement for experiences that take place during class time. Attendance is integral to improvement in this area of study. It is also an opportunity to practice professionalism in your work. ***The instructor must be notified in advance of an absence or tardy.***

In the event of an absence, ***students are still responsible for turning in assignments on time*** (unless previous arrangements have been made) and ***staying caught up on what was missed***.

Additionally, 3 unexcused absences lowers final grade by one letter grade, 5 unexcused absences lowers two letter grades, 6 or more is an automatic fail.

### **Cell Phone Use in Class**

Phones should be silenced and put away during instruction time. Besides the obvious benefit to your focus and the classroom environment, this is another opportunity to practice industry etiquette.

### **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** ➞ <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003> ➞ <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** ➞ [\\_\(https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct> ➞ [\\_\(https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct\)](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](http://my.unt.edu) ➞ [\(http://my.unt.edu/\)](http://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** ➞ [\\_\(http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/\)](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/) ➞ [\\_\(http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/\)](http://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** ➞ [\\_\(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu) ➞ [\\_\(http://disability.unt.edu/\)](http://disability.unt.edu/). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **UNT Policy Statement on Diversity**

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

See: **Diversity and Inclusion** ➞ [\\_\(https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion\)](https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion)

Link: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion> ➞ <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

## Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness> ➞ <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

## Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students) ➞ <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students> ➞ <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

## Academic Calendar, Fall 2023

See: Academic Calendar [Fall 2023 Academic Calendar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide) ➞ <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

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

## 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** ➞ [\\_\(http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap\)](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> ➞ [\\_\(http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap\)](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** ➞ [\\_\(http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap\)](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> ➞ [\\_\(http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap\)](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** ➞ [\\_\(http://ferpa.unt.edu/\)](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/> ➞ [\\_\(http://ferpa.unt.edu/\)](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:

See: **[Counseling and Testing](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)**  **[\\_.\(http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services\)](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)**.

Link: **<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>**   
**[\\_.\(http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services\)](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)**.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: **[Mental Health Issues](https://speakout.unt.edu/)**  **[\\_\(https://speakout.unt.edu/\)](https://speakout.unt.edu/)**

Link: **<https://speakout.unt.edu>**  **[\\_\(https://speakout.unt.edu\)](https://speakout.unt.edu)**.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

**[Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu)** (**<mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> class day, students may drop a class up until the deadline through their my.unt portal. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall 2023 is November 10th. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Instructions: **<https://registrar.unt.edu/dropping-courses>**  **[\\_\(https://registrar.unt.edu/dropping-courses\)](https://registrar.unt.edu/dropping-courses)**.

## Student Resources

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

See: [Student Resources](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources)  (<https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>)

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

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)



## 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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>)

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

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Aug 22, 2023	 <a href="https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93439/assignments/1917012">Module 1 - Music Business EVAL Test</a> ( <a href="https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93439/assignments/1917012">https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93439/assignments/1917012</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Wed Aug 23, 2023	 <a href="https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93439/assignments/1905796">Discussion 1.1: WHO are You? [graded]</a> ( <a href="https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93439/assignments/1905796">https://unt.instructure.com/courses/93439/assignments/1905796</a> )	due by 11:59pm