

Applied Guitar – MUAC 1527- Section 702

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Juan Jose Alpizar, M.M.

Classical Guitar Teaching Fellow. Email: Juan.AlpizarRodriguez@unt.edu

Office: Bain Hall, room 224. Office Hours: By appointment.

What You'll Be Learning

Course Description: Lower-Level Applied Music (Guitar)

Structure: 13 One-on-One private lessons, 50 minutes in length.

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Learning Objectives:

Applied study in the classical guitar is designed to:

1. Develop a strong foundation in classical guitar technique, focusing on an exploration of an ergonomic, natural and personalized approach to the instrument that facilitates good tone production, comfort and ease when performing.
2. Explore musical and technical possibilities in passages that can provide the student with experience and tools to confront musical challenges from different musical periods and styles.
3. Develop personal musicianship by preparing repertoire, performing regularly and attending actively to studio activities, gaining professional experience, networking and good professional habits.

How We'll Learn Together

Please join me in creating an inclusive learning environment where we will learn together and from each other. I believe that applied lessons are one of the biggest learning experiences we can have as musicians. This is a fantastic space to cross all musical barriers, bring challenges, learn different paths to find a solution, and become the musician that we all want to be.

During our lessons, I'll do everything I can to help you succeed. In return, I ask that you come prepared, practice with intention, stay curious, and be willing to experiment and ask questions. The more effort you put into your learning, the more I can help you grow. My goal is to tailor our lessons to your strengths, challenges, and personal musical goals.

Required/Recommended Materials:

- A nylon-string classical guitar, subject to the approval of the instructor.
- A footstool, guitar support or similar device.
- Students must supply sheet music for their own repertoire. Check the University Library as many pieces can be found through the university or an interlibrary loan.
- Practice journal: Keep a journal documenting your weekly practice tasks, session time and goals.
- I recommend having a digital tuner or app that can assist you to tune the guitar before lessons and practicing. Along with a metronome app such as *Soundbrenner*.

Course Policies

Attendance, Tardiness, Rescheduling:

- Attendance is required at all lessons. 2 unexcused absences will lower the grade by one letter grade (i.e. "A" to "B"). More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic drop.
- Punctual arrival is required: If you are late for your lesson more than 3 times, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade for every following instance of tardiness. I recommend scheduling a time for the lesson where you can guarantee having some minutes of practice earlier in the day as well as being able to arrive at the office a few

minutes ahead of your scheduled lesson time so that you can relax and concentrate just on playing guitar. Bear in mind that the lessons are just 50 minutes long and they are scheduled back-to-back, so I will not be able to stay longer for the lesson if you are late.

- There will be no makeup lessons for missed sessions on behalf of the student. On the rare occasion of my absence, I will let you know in advance and we will reschedule for a time that works for us both.
- Attendance at weekly departmental meetings is mandatory for all MUAM and MUAC students. More than two unexcused absences at departmental will lower the final grade by one letter grade. Students are expected to perform at least once during the semester in the departmental meeting but are encouraged to perform regularly.
- Attendance is required at all guitar concerts (student recitals, chamber music recitals, and guest artist performances), masterclasses, and events on campus for MUAM and MUAC students enrolled in lesson credits. Unexcused absence at any of these events will result in your private lesson grade being lowered by one letter grade.

Lesson Grading and Expectations:

- Students will be asked by the instructor to practice a required amount of time per week and will assign them weekly goals. The practice time is generally 1 hour of practice per credit hour.
- At the beginning of every lesson, the student will share how their practice sessions went, the goals, challenges, strategies, and solutions they implemented. This should be recorded in the students' journal and demonstrated with examples of any challenge they had during their practice. Documentation of practice worth 10% of the grade.
- Students are required to attend and be prepared for every lesson. Lesson Preparation and Progress (60%) is evaluated through weekly growth, completion of assignments, responsiveness to instruction and overall professionalism. Failure to consistently demonstrate progress toward instructional goals may negatively affect the Lesson Preparation and Progress portion of the final grade.
- Departmental Performance and Participation (20%) will be evaluated through attendance, preparedness for the assigned performance(s), professionalism, and engagement in discussions/feedback.

- Juries take place a week before final exams each semester and are required for all students. You will be exempted from juries if you are having a recital this semester. You will be required to perform new works learned this semester. Sightreading may also be included in all juries.
- Juries will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Grading Policy

Criteria	% of Final Grade
Lesson Preparedness and Progress	60
Departmental Performance and Participation	20
Practice Journal	10
Jury Performance	10
Total	100

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 0%-59%

Anything on this syllabus is subject to change. The updated syllabus will be uploaded on Canvas, and students will receive notification. *

UNT POLICIES

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: [Fall Academic Calendar Information](#)

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

Semester Calendar, Fall 2026

See: [Fall Semester Calendar](#)

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

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>

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>.

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/fall-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>

Additional Resources for Faculty

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (including sample statement for syllabi)

See: [Faculty Guide for the Use of AI](#)

Link: <https://guides.library.unt.edu/artificial-intelligence/AIfaculty>

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/>