



MUJS 1132 – JAZZ PERFORMANCE FUNDAMENTALS

Tu,Th 3:00 - 3:50 pm | MU221

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Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano,
DMA Candidates and Teaching Fellows, Jazz Piano
Office Hours: By Appt

COURSE PHILOSOPHY/OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide the fundamental techniques required in solo and group performance settings for pianists such as comping rhythms, voicings, sight-reading skills, transposing, and prompt arranging techniques. The assignments include 4 transcriptions, 8 short language journals, 5 performances, and the final project.

COURSE CONTENT/MATERIALS

No Textbook required.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

GRADING: Your grade is determined by the following criteria.

- 32%: 4 Transcriptions (8% each)
- 18%: 3 Language Journal (6% each)
- 40%: 4 Performance Exams (10% each, lowest grade dropped)
- 20%: Final Performance (20% each)

The final grade is determined by the following scale:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = below 60%.

****Grades that are one point or less below a cutoff can be rounded up at the sole discretion of the instructor based on a student's overall effort, disposition, and attendance both in class and in office hours. For example, 89.1 and 89.0 *can* be rounded at the instructor's discretion, 88.9 *cannot*.**

PERFORMANCE EXAMS

For the exam, you will be asked to play 1) the chord progression of the assigned tune in a random key and 2) your own rendition in the key of your choice.

TRANSCRIPTION ASSIGNMENTS

All submissions must be computer notated and submitted through Canvas by 3pm on the due dates. Neatness and presentation are a part of your grade for each. This is a firm deadline: no late work is accepted for any reason except an excused absence.

Students will be asked to play along with the transcription in class and explain the technique used in the transcription.

LANGUAGE JOURNAL

You will be asked to transcribe a phrase (4 bars maximum) from a recording of the assigned pianist and share your work with the class. We will analyze the lines and play them in 12 keys. Your preparation will be graded.

FINAL PROJECT

The final project includes two parts: the writing component and the performing component. The content of the final exam will include previously discussed materials including various comping rhythms, Drop 2 Voicing, Block Chord Voicing, Walking Bass, and solo piano component. The more details will be discussed in class.

ATTENDANCE:

Please note: Attendance is not directly factored into any of these grading criteria. You are given **three unexcused absences** with no questions asked. Each unexcused absence **after the third** will lower your attendance grade by 5%. Excused absences are always permitted with reasonable cause and ample notice (when possible). **These absences do not count towards the three unexcused absences.** Please email the instructor to clear these in advance, or as soon as possible after-the-fact in case of emergency. Please provide documentation/verification.

If you feel overwhelmed in any way, or if you are dealing with something that is causing you to miss a significant amount of class, the best thing to do is speak with the instructor as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester when grades are published.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

CHAPTER 1

Week 1:

Tue Jan 18 - Course Overview, Review of Drop 2, diminished 6th scale, Block chord Solo
Thu Jan 20 - 12key and Application of Drop 2 & diminished

Week 2:

Tue Jan 25 – **Transcription 1 Due**, Sight Reading, Alternation of Diminished 6th with borrowing
Thu Jan 27 – **Language Journal 1 Due**, Group Exercise

Week 3:

Tue Feb 1 – **Performance Exam 1 Drop 2 + Block chord Solo**
Thu Feb 3 – Sight Reading, “Wave” Analysis, 7-1A & B (p161-167)

CHAPTER 2

Week 4:

Tue Feb 8 – Review of Rhythmic Coordination 2 and 3, Grouping 5 & 6
Thu Feb 10 – Application to Wave, Group Exercise

Week 5:

Tue Feb 15 – Sight Reading, Rhythmic Comping Exercise, Group Exercise
Thu Feb 17 – Odd Meter Rhythmic Poly Rhythm

Week 6:

Tue Feb 22 – Playing Straight 8th
Thu Feb 24 – **Performance Exam 2 – Wave**

CHAPTER 3

Week 7:

Tue Mar 1 – Reharmonization with alternated 2-5-1, **Transcription 2 due**, Application to Blues in 12keys
Thu Mar 3 – Sight Reading, Advanced Reharmonization

Week 8:

Tue Mar 8 – **Assignment 1 Due** – Reharmonizing (Medium to Fast Tempo), Jazz Standard
Thu Mar 10 – Rhythm Change, Group Exercise

Week 9:

Tue Mar 15 – SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
Thu Mar 17 – SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

CHAPTER 4

Week 10:

Tue Mar 22 – **Performance Exam 3 – Blues or Rhythm Change in 12 Key, Transcription 3 Due** – Clare Fischer -Everything happens to me/ **12 keys Exercise**
Thu Mar 24 – Sight Reading, Introduction of Jazz Ballad (Lush Life) - Push and Pull & Lyric)

Week 11:

Tue Mar 29 – **Language Journal 2** “Body and Soul” Analysis, Practice in 12 keys
Thu Mar 31 – Voice Leading Exercise in 12 keys

Week 12:

Tue Apr 5 – **Performance Exam 4** (Application of Language Journal 2 & transcription 2) Sight Reading

CHAPTER 5

Thu Apr 7 – Review of So What Voicing, Pentatonic Pattern Exercise in 12 keys

Week 13:

Tue Apr 12 – **Transcription 4 Due: McCoy Tyner - Impression**, Group Practice

Thu Apr 14 – **Language Journal 3 Due**, Quartal Voicings Exercise, Advanced Patterns, Sight-Reading

Week 14:

Tue Apr 19 – **Transcription 4: Chick Corea – Matrix**, Transcription Analysis

Thu Apr 21 – Group Exercise with Blues & Rhythm Change

Week 15:

Tue Apr 26 – Preparation for Final Exam

Thu Apr 28 – **Final Comprehensive Exam – Playing All Components**

The course schedule and all course policies are subjected to change with notice.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

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, 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.

LINK: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/integrity>

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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips,

etc.

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:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

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

2020-2021 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

<http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=2454>

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:

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 registered hours per term. 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 being doing so.

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.

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 Blackboard/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.

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

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 COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomstesting/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.

(Approved Faculty Senate 5/13/20)

Have you met miss jones
Like Someone in Love
Body and Soul
Sweet and Lovely
Wave
Dindi

Impression

Transcription: Nothing But D Best by George Shearing

Language Journal 1-5 Do it yourself!

Find

1. drop 2 or Block Chords solo 2-4 bars
2. Rhythmic Coordination