

COURSE PHILOSOPHY/OBJECTIVES

In this course, we aim to develop and refine the practical skills most commonly expected of a modern-day jazz pianist, including (but not limited to):

- transposition and quick functional analysis of a tune
- spontaneous arranging: creation of clear introductions, interludes, and “outros”
- left hand accompaniment styles, including functional basslines, variations of comping rhythm, 2 note “shell” voicings,” simple stride patterns, rootless 3 and 4 note voicings, and more
- two-handed accompaniment styles, including 3, 4, 5 and 6 note standard voicing structures, upper structures, “So What” style voicings, florid comping styles, basic montuno figures, and more
- functional coordination and interdependence of the left and right hands
- general procedures of ensemble playing, including accompanying vocalists
- sight-reading lead sheets and written-out material

This course sequence helps the student master the foundational skills needed to secure *work and employment* as a professional jazz or contemporary pianist. In addition, it gives students a firm basis with which they can pursue their unique artistic visions and aesthetic agendas in the later years of their degree program.

The instructor(s) may cover additional topics according to specific student abilities and needs, including but not limited to:

- transcription strategies and specific analysis of famous jazz piano solos
- deeper stylistic/comparative analysis of jazz piano styles and textures
- advanced chord substitution and reharmonization techniques
- advanced rhythmic training and hand coordination study
- contrapuntal improvisation and other modern techniques

COURSE CONTENT/MATERIALS

There is no textbook required for this course, but students should be able to seek out recordings and lead sheets.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

GRADING: Your grade is determined by the following criteria.

50%: 6 Performances (lowest dropped)
30%: 6 Sight-reading assignments
10%: 1 Transcription Assignment
10%: Final Sight-reading Exam

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*.**

ATTENDANCE:

Please note: Attendance is not directly factored into any of these grading criteria, but each unexcused absence **after the THIRD** will lower your **final grade** by 5%, regardless of performance in any of the above criteria. This is a generous attendance policy that allows you to miss approximately 10% of class meetings with no questions asked. After your third absence, the policy is strictly enforced.

Excused absences are, of course, 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

Week 1:

Tu Jan 12 - Syllabus and Course Overview

Th Jan 14 - Sight-reading, Comping Rhythms, Tune-learning, and Transposition

Week 2: Sight-reading Assignment 1 Due

Tu Jan 19 - "Like Someone in Love" Analysis, Drills, and Strategies

Th Jan 21 - Continued

Week 3:

Tu Jan 26 - Continued

Th Jan 28 - “Like Someone in Love” Performance

Week 4: Sight-reading Assignment 2 Due

Tu Feb 2 - “Have You Met Miss Jones?” Analysis, Drills, and Strategies

Th Feb 4 - Continued

Week 5:

Tu Feb 9 - Continued

Th Feb 11 - “Have You Met Miss Jones?” Performance

Week 6: Sight-reading Assignment 3 Due

Tu Feb 16 - “I Remember You” Analysis, Drills, and Strategies

Th Feb 18 - Continued

Week 7:

Tu Feb 23 - Continued

Th Feb 25 - “I Remember You” Performance

Week 8: Sight-reading Assignment 4 Due

Tu Mar 2 - “Stablemates” Analysis, Drills, and Strategies

Th Mar 4 - Continued

Week 9:

Tu Mar 9 - Continued

Th Mar 11 - “Stablemates” Performance

Week 10: Sight-reading Assignment 5 Due

Tu Mar 16 - “I Loves You Porgy” as a Ballad: Analysis, Drills, and Strategies

Th Mar 18 - Continued

Week 11:

Tu Mar 23 - Continued

Th Mar 25 - “I Loves You Porgy” Performance

Week 12: Sight-reading Assignment 6 Due

Tu Mar 30 - Application of Gospel Triads and Passing Diminished Chords: “Long as You Know You’re Living Yours” (Keith Jarrett), “James” (Pat Metheny Group), and “Amazing Grace” (Cory Henry)

Th Apr 1 - Continued

Week 13:

Tu Apr 6 - Continued

Th Apr 8 - Continued

Week 14: Transcription Due

Tu Apr 13 - Continued

Th Apr 15 - Continued

Week 15:

Tu Apr 20 - Continued, Final Sight-reading Exam

Th Apr 22 - Final Performance

Week 16 (Finals Week):

Tu Apr 27 - No Class

Th Apr 29 - No Class

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

PROFESSIONALISM AND INCLUSIVITY:

All students are expected to contribute to an environment of inclusivity and mutual respect, in this course and in all department courses. Please consider how some words, phrases and actions that you feel are harmless and acceptable may actually be perceived by others as an attack on their very identity. Show proper respect for all of your peers and treat others how *they* would like to be treated.

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)

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021

<https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/calendar>

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