



## SYLLABUS

### The Continuing Legacy of Late Romanticism: Compositional Techniques in Contemporary Concert and Film Music

College of Music, Composition Division

Fall 2026 - MUCP 4695 and MUCP 5695

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays | 2:30-3:20 PM | MU2006

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Although music history often portrays the twentieth century as a departure from Romanticism through modernism, serialism, and experimental music, many composers continued to develop Romantic musical ideas in new contexts and a return to romantic ideas flourished once again in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. This course explores the enduring influence of late Romantic compositional techniques on contemporary concert music and film music through comparative analysis of scores, recordings, and historical writings. Students will examine how Wagner, Strauss, Mahler, Sibelius, and other late Romantic composers established compositional practices that remain central to the works of John Williams, John Corigliano, Augusta Read Thomas, Steven Stucky, Ellen Taaffe Zwillich, Jacob Druckman, Chris Rogerson, Olga Neuwirth, and many others. Rather than studying composers chronologically, the course is organized around musical concepts that reveal historical continuities across more than a century of composition.

#### BASIC INFORMATION:

- Instructors: Dr. Jonathan Cziner
- Contact information: [jonathan.Cziner@unt.edu](mailto:jonathan.Cziner@unt.edu)
- Office: Mu112
- Office hours: by appointment

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- A computer and access to Canvas
- Selected scores, recordings, articles, chapters and reviews provided

#### GRADING

##### Attendance/Class Participation (20%)

You are expected to attend both seminar and lectures weekly, and notify your instructors well in advance if this is not possible. Unexplained or unexcused absences will be factored into your grade. Friday's are discussion days. I expect everyone to participate and contribute to the week's discussion.

##### Listening Journals / Score Analysis (30%)

Weekly analytical listening responses. Students complete analytical studies of selected Romantic and contemporary works.

##### Midterm Presentation (20%)

More details TBA

##### Major Research Paper (30%)

Students will select a contemporary concert work or film score and demonstrate how one or more late Romantic compositional techniques shape the work's musical language. Papers should combine historical research, score analysis, and close listening to trace specific lines of influence between nineteenth-century and contemporary composers.

Examples:

- Wagnerian leitmotifs in *Star Wars*
- Sibelius and organic development in Steven Stucky's *Symphony*
- Mahlerian orchestral rhetoric in Corigliano's *Symphony No. 1*
- Richard Strauss and orchestral color in Augusta Read Thomas
- Neo-Romanticism and extended triadic harmony in Christopher Rouse
- Bernstein as the bridge between Mahler and contemporary American symphonists
- Mahlerian orchestration in modern symphonic writing
- Endless melody in contemporary opera

### **HOMEWORK:**

All work is due on the date instructed by the professor. It must be submitted electronically to Canvas on or before its due date.

### **LISTENING EXAMPLES FROM LITERATURE:**

Some musical excerpts discussed throughout the semester and presented will be introduced during our scheduled class time. Other repertoire should be heard by all students between classes when indicated by the professor. There are numerous pieces listed as examples for each covering a wide range of contemporary repertoire. Some of these will be assigned, and some will be supplemental, which will be designated by the professor throughout the course.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

- A: 90-100 %
- B: 80-89 %
- C 70-79 %
- D: 60-69%
- F: <59%

### **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](https://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/](https://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](https://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>