

MUJS 2360 Jazz Improvisation Spring 2020 Syllabus

MUJS 1361.001 M/W 2 – 2:50 (Lab East)
MUJS 1361.002 T & TH 3 – 3:50 (Room 262)

Instructor: Rodney Booth
office: Music Annex 121
email: rodney.booth@unt.edu
Phone: 940 369-7640
office hours: Monday and Wednesday 10 – 11 am and 3– 4 pm (or by appointment)

Learning objectives

- 1) To improve your ability to improvise by telling a story in a jazz style.
- 2) To improve your ability to sing jazz lines and rhythms.
- 3) To improve your ability to write down music you hear.
- 4) To improve your ability to hear and perform music you read.

Required text

No required text this semester

Evaluation

Test 1 (5%)
Test 2 (8%)
Test 3 (12%)
Test 4 (15%)
Test 5 (15%)
Test 6 (20%)
Final exam 25%
Total, 100%

A= 90–100% B=80–89% C=70–79% D=60–69% F=59% and below
The standard mathematical rounding procedure will apply to final grades. For example, 89.4 is a B, 89.5 is an A--unless you lose the round-up for attendance (read on).

Attendance policy

Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. You may miss two class meetings with no penalty. If you miss three or four, you lose the round-up feature in the grading scale. If you miss five or more classes, you must drop the class or your final grade will be F. I expect you to arrive on time and to stay for the entire class. If you need to leave early, speak with me before class.

The only excused absences I will accept are:

- 1) Those for university-sponsored activities, such as ensemble tours, which you must document in writing;
- 2) Extended serious illness requiring a doctor's care, which you must document in writing. Ordinary "not feeling well" does not count as extended serious illness. If you are not present when the roster is passed around to sign at the start of each class, you are absent. Please make sure your phone won't ring during class, and please do not bring food or drink into class.

Course activities

Each class will be a mix of playing, listening, singing, and transcribing. Bring a music manuscript notebook to each class.

Course topics

We will study chord and scale relationships as well as playing tunes by ear. We will work on exercises and transcribe solos on the various tunes we work on including: Blue Soul, Sweet Georgia Brown, Lady Bird, Green Dolphin Street, There will never be another you, and All the things you are.

Professor's expectations of the students

I expect you to: Keep a positive attitude

- 1) Take responsibility for your learning in this class
- 2) Attend every class, arrive on time, and stay the entire time
- 3) Arrive for your office appointments on time
- 4) Work on the skills we're studying outside of class

What students can expect from the professor

You can expect me to:

- 1) Treat every student with respect and the expectation that every student is capable of doing well in this class
- 2) Begin and end class on time
- 3) Allow time for questions in class
- 4) Be prepared for class
- 5) Be available outside of class in the office or by email
- 6) Be willing to modify what we do in class in order to help you better understand what we are working on.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities that affect their work in this class are invited to speak with me privately about it.

Academic Honesty (I want you to steal, beg, and borrow)

Academic honesty means presenting only your own ideas as your own, and giving credit for the ideas of others when you use them in your academic work. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Students are expected to follow the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. In this class, plagiarism of artist's solos is encouraged.

Evaluation of the course

The standard UNT evaluation will be done at the end of the course. If you have comments or suggestions for improving the course before then, please give them to me.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

<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 Access (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 Access. LINK: 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.

https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf

2019-2020 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

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

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2019-2020

<https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2019-20/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

<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

ADD/DROP POLICY

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-add-drop>

STUDENT RESOURCES

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

https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf