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MUJS 1131.507

FUNDAMENTALS OF JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Description & Objectives of the Course

Fundamentals of Jazz Performance (Vocal section) is the entry-level jazz curriculum course in the UNT Division of Jazz Studies, with the purpose of exploring many facets of what it takes to be a successful vocal musician in the program as you study the art of jazz.

By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

- Have a grasp of who the most important jazz singers (soloists and ensembles) are, what distinguishes them from each other, and be able to place them on a timeline in history from the inception of jazz singing to the present day.

- Confidently create written representations of your songs using computer notation software and either create or expand your "book" of tunes and lyrics for performance.

- Sing along in performance with vocal artists and imitate their style through striving for perfection in all aspects of matching them.

- Develop foundational transcription skills for transcribing music from recordings, starting with bass lines and moving into chord progressions.

- Develop practice methods for improvising over chord changes in a combination of theoretical and aural ways.

Course Information

M/W 2 - 2:50 pm, Room 292

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Barnes

Office: Rm 346

Email: Jennifer.Barnes@unt.edu

Cell: (661) 713-0260

Office Hours: By appt. - see schedule online (Canvas page for the vocal area) or outside my office door

Course Attendance, Grading & Materials

- Absences are limited to two for the semester. If there is a medical emergency, the student and instructor will work out a modified due date for the assignment(s) missed ASAP. Other than a medical impossibility of singing, all other assignments that were due in class must be submitted by recording on the day due or will be subject to a late penalty (see below). If you are unable to attend class because you are ill, it is imperative that you communicate with me *prior to being absent* in order for the absence to be considered excused.

- Each assignment/performance will be graded on Canvas; the grade is determined by the quality of preparation and the musicality of the assignments/performances.

- Your final semester grade will be calculated as follows:

  1. Attendance and class participation – 10%
  2. Assignments – 80%
  3. Final exam — 10%

- Homework, in-class performances or projects that are submitted late will be subject to a grade reduction off the total grade on the following scale, but will still be expected to be completed, since you must learn the material (exceptions will only be made for excused absences cleared in advance):

  - 1 – 2 days late = 10% reduction
  - 3 – 6 days late = 25% reduction
  - 7 – 13 days late = 50% reduction
  - 14+ days late = no credit

- Please silence your cell phone prior to entering the classroom space and put it in an inaccessible place to avoid causing distraction to yourself or anyone else. The only exception will be when you plan to use your phone as a recording device, in which case it must remain in "AIRPLANE MODE".

- Laptops/tablets may be used for note-taking and recording, but no other activities. Students found to be doing so will earn a failing grade for class participation for that day.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE**: Although this syllabus is a guide to our plan for this class, the final word on scheduled assignments, due dates and specific content for each assignment will be on **<u>Canvas</u>**, NOT this syllabus, due to adjustments that will

If you do well in this class, you too can be successful, like these people!

invariably need to be made to accommodate the individual pace and level of this specific class.   It is each student's responsibility to consult the online course to verify each assignment's content and due date.

Required materials:

1.   iRealPro app (for phone, tablet or laptop)
2.   Access to Dorico software (version 5 or 6), highly recommended to be purchased and registered on your laptop computer; if not possible, then you may use the Music Computer Lab. Korg NanoKey or other small/portable MIDI keyboard entry device also highly recommended.

All course content will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible to check in frequently there to be up-to-date with your work, notifications, etc.!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
See: Academic Integrity
LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
See: Student Code of Conduct
Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

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: Registration Information

Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/students

Academic Calendar, Fall 2025
See: Fall 2025 Registration Information
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. 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.

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
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