

**West End  
Meeting Times:  
M/W 5:00-6:50 PM  
Lab East (MU263)**

**Director: Natalie Holsey**

**Email: [NatalieHolsey@my.unt.edu](mailto:NatalieHolsey@my.unt.edu)**

**Communication Expectations:** Email is the preferred way to contact me with any questions or concerns related to this course, including attendance or assignment extensions, or to schedule times to meet in person or over Zoom. Responses will be sent by the next business day (if not sooner), but not on weekends. Assignment feedback will be available on Canvas within two weeks of the due date (assuming the assignment is submitted on time).

**Objectives:**

1. Cultivate technical skills in the specialized context of vocal jazz ensemble performance.
2. Broaden understanding of stylistic conventions within vocal jazz ensemble repertoire and performance.
3. Develop a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the diverse traditions in vocal jazz ensemble literature.
4. Cultivate professionalism, including reliability, communication, and leadership, within the context of ensemble collaboration.

**Students are expected to:**

1. Consistently arrive on time, vocally warmed up, and fully equipped for all ensemble commitments.
2. Engage in independent practice beyond scheduled rehearsals to achieve mastery of individual ensemble parts.

3. Approach rehearsals with patience, resolve, truth, optimism, sincerity, and courage—but above all, strive to create a safe space where falling and flourishing are equally honored in the journey of growth.
4. Ensure the proper use and maintenance of all ensemble materials, including audio equipment, musical scores, and folders.

**Students can expect the director to:**

1. Arrive fully prepared and model musical leadership to support ensemble cohesion and excellence.
2. Ensure each student upholds their responsibilities and contributes positively to the learning environment.
3. Demonstrate commitment to the music, the ensemble, and the people within the ensemble.
4. Maintain an environment where every student is valued and treated with dignity and respect.

**Performance Policy:**

**Ensemble performances are mandatory and constitute non-negotiable commitments.**

Failure to attend a scheduled performance will result in an automatic zero for the semester grade, unless the absence is due to a verified emergency.

**Official call times will be communicated in advance.** Once announced, these times are also considered non-negotiable and must be honored as part of the ensemble's professional expectations.

**Performance Attire:**

West End performs in (solid color of choice) and BLACK. Have fun with accents, but nothing too over the top. We will decide as an ensemble what accent color we would like to perform in with a vote at the second ensemble rehearsal.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Consistent attendance is essential to the success of the ensemble. Each member plays a vital role in our collective sound, preparation, and performance quality. As such, rehearsals are considered mandatory, and absences—whether planned or unexpected—must be communicated clearly and responsibly.

- **Planned Absences:** If you are aware of an unavoidable conflict that will prevent you from attending a rehearsal (such as a school-sponsored event, family obligation, or other legitimate commitment), you are required to notify me via email no less than 24 hours in advance. This allows time to adjust rehearsal plans and ensure the ensemble can continue progressing effectively.
- **Illness:** If you are feeling unwell and believe it is best to stay home, please email me at least 3 hours before the scheduled rehearsal. Timely communication helps us maintain a safe and respectful environment for all members.
- **Emergencies:** In the event of an emergency, such as a sudden illness, accident, or family crisis, please reach out via call or text as soon as is practical. While emergencies are unpredictable, prompt communication is expected once you are able.
- **Patterns of Tardiness or Absence:** Attendance issues that become habitual—such as repeated lateness or multiple unexcused absences—will not be overlooked. If such a pattern emerges, you will be required to meet with Professor Barnes and myself outside of rehearsal to discuss your continued enrollment in the ensemble. This meeting will serve as an opportunity to assess your commitment, address any underlying issues, and determine the best path forward.

We rely on each other to maintain a high standard of excellence. Your presence, preparation, and communication are all part of what makes this ensemble thrive.

## **Grading Policy:**

Grading in this course is designed to be clear, consistent, and reflective of your engagement and contributions.

### ♦ **Rehearsals**

- Each rehearsal is worth 2 points.
- Full credit is awarded when all four student expectations are met.
- Expectations include: punctuality, preparedness, active participation, and respectful collaboration.

### ♦ **Performances**

- Each performance is worth 10 points.
- These events represent the culmination of our work and are weighted accordingly.

### ♦ **Listening Assignments & Feedback**

- Students will complete periodic listening assignments.
- Points will be awarded based on thoughtful engagement and the quality of submitted feedback.

### ♦ **Final Grade Calculation**

- Final grades are calculated as a percentage of total points earned out of the total possible points for the semester.
- This system emphasizes consistency, accountability, and artistic growth.

## **Required Dates: (Dates are subject to change and students will be notified ASAP)**

1. **Sat. 9/20 - Fall Retreat (Rhythm Section might be involved for a small period of time). Time: TBD**
2. **Sun. 10/5 - Denton Arts & Jazz Festival (All VJ Ensembles) Time: TBD**

3. **Tues. 10/28 - All Vocal Jazz Ensembles at The Syndicate - you must be present for the entire evening!**
4. **10/31 - Syndicate @ “Nooner” Lunch Set - West End Special (11 AM Load-In, 12 Noon start time, 12:50 PM end time)**
5. **Fall Concert Vocal Extravaganza! (All Vocal Jazz Ensembles performing) Time: 9AM-10PM**

**University Policies:**

Academic integrity policy: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

Student behavior policy: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Eagle Connect Info: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

ODA Statement: <http://disability.unt.edu/>

Diversity Policy: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

Registration Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Health and Safety: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Counseling and Testing: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>

Retention of student records policy: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Financial aid and Academic Progress: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Full list of student resources: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

Final Exam Schedule: <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

Academic Calendar: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Care Team: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>