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# MUJS 1131.507

## FUNDAMENTALS OF JAZZ PERFORMANCE



### Description & Objectives of the Course

Fundamentals of Jazz Performance is the entry-level jazz curriculum course for all instruments in the UNT Division of Jazz Studies, with the purpose of exploring many facets of what it takes to be a successful student in the program as you study the art of jazz from the perspective of being a vocal musician.

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.
- Sing along in performance with vocal artists and “cop” their style through striving for perfection in all aspects of matching them.
- Confidently create written representations of your songs using computer notation software and either create or expand your “book” of tunes and lyrics for performance.
- Explore the most critical elements of self-accompaniment on the piano.
- Develop foundational transcription skills for transcribing music from recordings, starting with bass lines and moving into chord progressions.
- Develop practice methods for starting to practice improvising over chord changes in a combination of theoretical and aural ways.

### Course Information

M/W 2 - 2:50 pm Rm. 292

**Instructor:** Jennifer Barnes

Teaching Assistant: Rachel Azbell

Office: Rm 346

email: [jennifer.Barnes@unt.edu](mailto:jennifer.Barnes@unt.edu)

cell: (661) 713-0260

Office Hours: By appt. - see  
office door or online for options

## Course Attendance, Grading & Policies

- 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)
- Each assignment/performance will be graded on Blackboard; the grade is determined by the quality of preparation and the musicality of the assignments/performances.
- The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:
  1. Attendance and class participation – 15%
  2. Assignment grades, averaged – 60%
  3. Mid-term (10%) & final exam (15%)
- 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 **Canvas**, NOT this syllabus, due to adjustments that will 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.

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



**Additional University policies:**

Academic Integrity Policy: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

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

ODA Statement: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu)

Retention of Student Records: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

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

You will perform assignments on class performance days as part of the following groups:

GROUP 1	GROUP 2
Megan Blake	Abby Litjens
Bianca Lopez	Michael Martin
Sara Meblin	Katelyn Robinson
Lauren Smith	Deyana Wilson

#	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (see Canvas for more specifics)
1	8/26	Introduction to class; Syllabus review; Day One Listening Exam	none!
2	8/28	Listening Exam Review, Part 1	Listening/writing Assignment #1
3	9/2	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS!	
4	9/4	Listening Exam Review, Part 2	Listening/writing Assignment #2
5	9/9	Listening/writing Assignment, Part 3	Listening/writing Assignment #3
6	9/11	Listening/writing Assignment, Part 4; discuss Singalong Assignment #1 - Medium Swing	Listening/writing Assignment #4; choose and upload recording information for Singalong #1
7	9/16	Medium swing listening; discussion of swing elements; discuss lead sheets & lyric sheets.	Group 1: Prep singalong #1 and materials Group 2: Choose Ballad for Singalong #2 and upload for approval.
8	9/18	Group 1: In-class performances of Singalong #1; finding the right key (speaking register)	Group 1: Self-evaluation of Singalong #1 Group 2: Prep singalong #1 and materials
9	9/23	Group 2: In-class performances of Singalong #1; Ballad listening; discussion of ballad delivery.	Group 2 : Self-evaluation of Singalong #1 Group 1: Choose Ballad for Singalong #2 and upload for approval.
10	9/25	Notation concepts; Syndicate performances	Edit and resubmit new and improved lead sheets for Singalong #1 songs. Prep Singalong #2.

#	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (see Canvas for more specifics)
11	9/30	Review lead sheets and lyric sheets in class; Bossa Nova style/discussion.	Group 1: Prep singalong #2 and materials Group 2: Choose Bossa for Singalong #3 and upload for approval.
12	10/2	Group 1: In-class performances of Singalong #2 Group 2: Turn in lead/lyric sheets online	Group 1: Self-evaluation of Singalong #2 Group 2: Prep Singalong #2
13	10/7	Group 2: In-class performances of Singalong #2; Discuss Midterm Project.	Group 2 : Self-evaluation of Singalong #2 Group 1: Choose Bossa for Singalong #3 and upload for approval.
14	10/9	Singing along to check bass notes of chord progressions.	Midterm Project. Prep Singalong #3
15	10/14	Midterm Project Due by class time! Groups 1 & 2: Singalong #3	Self-evaluation of Singalong #3
16	10/16	Review of Midterm Projects; Individual Meetings	none!
17	10/21	Bass Line Construction, Part 1	Bass Line Construction, Part 1
18	10/23	Bass Line Construction, Part 2	Bass Line Construction, Part 2
19	10/28	Transcribing Bass Lines, Part 1	Bass Line Transcription #1
20	10/30	Transcribing Bass Lines, Part 2	Bass Line Transcription #2
21	11/4	Brazilian Bass Lines	Bass Line Transcription #3
22	11/6	Individual Meetings	Bass Line Transcription #4
23	11/11	Piano "Skeletons"; Transcribing Chord Qualities	"How High the Moon" skeletons; Play them also.
24	11/13	In-class performances of "skeletons"	Transcribe "How High" from recordings
25	11/18	Improvisation on "How High"	none!
26	11/20	Individual sessions on Bass Line Transcription #4	Bass Line Transcription #5; Chord Transcription #1
27	11/25	Review Bass Line & Chord Transcription	Complete and edit final transcription of "Never Say Goodbye"
28	11/27	NO CLASS!	
29	12/2	Review & listen for Final Exam	Study!
30	12/4	Improv jam; Q & A	Prep for final.
	12/9	<b>Final Exam - Rm. 292 1:30 - 3 p.m.</b>	