

Description &  
Objectives

PAGE 1

Attendance/  
Grading  
Policies

PAGE 2

Materials &  
Course  
Content

PAGE 3

Course  
Content &  
Policies

PAGE 4

# 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](mailto: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:
  - Attendance and class participation – 10%
  - Assignments – 80%
  - 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 **Canvas**, 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 - around \$15)**
2. **Access to Finale software (version 27), 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.**

## Course Content

DATE	TOPIC
8/29	Day One Listening Exam
8/31	Introduction to class with Syllabus review; Listening Exam Review, Part 1
9/5	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS!
9/7	Listening Exam Review, Part 2
9/12	Listening Exam Review, Part 3; Intro to Finale lead sheet-making
9/14	Listening Exam Review, Part 4; More Finale!
9/19	Listening Exam Review, Part 5; More Finale!
9/21	Introduce timeline and final exam content; More Finale!
9/26	Discuss Finale "Master lead sheet" concept; Slash & Rhythmic notation; Adding other instruments; working with Parts.
9/28	Wrap of Finale teaching; introduce song lists and sing-alongs
10/3	Demo of Sing-along; listen and discuss jazz ballad singing
10/5	How song lists can be used; choosing keys; example book & lyric sheets;
10/10	In-class performances of Singalong #1; introduce swing
10/12	More swing concept listening and discussion
10/17	In-class performances of Singalong #2; introduce Brazilian styles
10/19	More Brazilian listening and discussion; Intro to Jam Session material
10/24	In-class performances of Singalong #3; Intros/endings; Jam session protocol
10/26	Jam session with "real" players!
10/31	Intro to Modal Jazz: "So What"
11/2	"So What" piano; using numbers related to chord structure and harmony
11/7	"So What"

DATE	TOPIC
11/9	More modal jazz: "Maiden Voyage"
11/14	(No class - Guest Artist Master Class!)
11/16	"Maiden Voyage": further exploration
11/21	"Song for My Father": bridging from modes into more complex chord progressions
11/23	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Day!
11/28	Introduction to Bass Line Construction
11/30	Composing bass lines, part 2; transcribing bass lines
12/5	Review & listen for Final Exam
12/7	Improv jam; Q & A
<b>12/12</b>	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>1:30 - 3 p.m.</b>

## University policies:

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

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

Eagle Connect info: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

ODA Statement: [disability.unt.edu](https://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: <https://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>

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