

MUJS 5760, Jazz Arranging (Graduate level)

General Information

MUJS 5760.001, Jazz Arranging (3 credits)

Class Time – M 4:00 – 5:50, W 4:00 – 4:50

Professor: Richard DeRosa

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973-953-1471

Prerequisites: MUJS 4620 with a grade of A or (B with the Arranging Continuation Exam). The ACE is given concurrently with final MUJS 4620 reviews, and by appointment prior to the beginning of fall semester.

Reference texts: Changes Over Time – The Evolution of Jazz Arranging by Fred Sturm plus texts from 3610-20 and 4610-20.

Course description: MUJS 5760 is required of all graduate jazz majors. This course is approached from various perspectives:

- 1) an analysis of the evolution of jazz arranging through significant arrangers from the 1920s to the present: the student arranges short excerpts of music to capture a specific style (possibly including Ragtime, Dixieland, Basie/Sinatra style, Duke, reharmonizing Great American Standards, Mulligan/Baker, Gil Evans w/Thornhill and Miles, Holman, Mancini, Mandel, Oliver Nelson, Thad Jones, Brecker Bros., Latin and Brazilian styles) and also creates a public school jazz band chart with many of the restrictions required by today's top publishing companies.
- 2) a focus on writing for orchestra and voices: arrangers should know how to write for other ensembles beyond the big band.
- 3) the business of composition and arranging: simulating professional assignments - create anything in any style with tight deadlines – essentially “arranging on demand”.
- 4) virtual music production: all comp/arr students will be expected to create good MIDI demos (using DP, Logic, ProTools, etc., or minimally using Finale with Garritan sounds) of their writing. This has become beneficial, if not expected, in the industry as it helps performers practice the music for a recording session and provides producers (or clients) with a clear impression of the work prior to the human performance. The professor will guide the student in this endeavor.

- 5) For balance, students are encouraged to find their own voice. They should bring in music that they want to explore. The professor will support a personal direction and ultimately help carve out a path for the student to hone specific career aspirations. The small class size and advanced level of the students cultivates a forum-like setting where a free exchange of ideas is encouraged.

Work ethic

Professional arrangers always meet the deadline. The student will be held to the same standard.

Attendance policy

Only an excused absence is acceptable (tour, sickness, academic conflict, other extenuating circumstances such as an unforeseen accident). Please do not show up to class with a communicable illness (including colds). The preferred method of notification is via e-mail but the phone is acceptable as well. Please notify ASAP.

Assessment

The semester grade is based on the assessment of work submitted, (production, quality, and timeliness) with regard to writing assignments, and the quality of the lecture presentations. Attitude and participation in class is also considered.

Assignments

are generated in two ways: **writing assignments** and **lecture assignments**.

Writing assignments

are assigned (regarding content) in accordance with the student profile (the level and past experience of the class) and progress as follows:

Week 1, Wednesday (one hour lecture) – assignment is generated and discussed.

Week 2, Monday (two hour period) – assignment is produced (entered into MIDI format) and presented.

This schedule is adjusted as necessary for more involved assignments.

Lecture assignments

are presented by each student. The student will choose a significant arranger (one prior to 1960/one after 1960) and give a short lecture (15 – 20 minutes) about that person and why he or she has achieved historic notoriety. Recordings of any piece(s) should be used to support the notable aspect of the arranger. Handouts are necessary to be shared with each class member.

Office of Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (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 Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Financial Aid 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 registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (Graduates)

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of "F" in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

Student Behavior in the Classroom

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to

all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: www.unt.edu/csrr.