

## Clarinet Studio Syllabus Supplement—Spring 2026

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You don't need me to tell you that the musical world is full of diversity and uncertainty. Each of you will make different career choices upon your commencements. My desire is for you, no matter your level of study, is that you prepare now to graduate as an analytical, thoughtful, competent musician who will be ready for whatever opportunities present themselves to you. As a musician, clarinetist, and music educator, these lessons will help you develop a complete, thorough knowledge and competency of clarinet repertoire and pedagogy--that will serve as the foundation for your artistry. It is expected that each of you, through lessons, performances, studio class, ensembles and assignments, strive to reach your fullest musical potential.

Your development is not merely confined to this campus. You are part of a larger musical community, and you must keep pace with industry standards by engaging in a strict practice regiment and by continually striving for excellence in musicianship and scholarship.

**Master Schedule for all Clarinet Activities:** is available as it has been in the past. I will post a link in the Google Drive.

### **Assessment and General Expectations:**

Your semester grade consists of the following components:

- Weekly Lesson 60% of your grade  
Includes:
  - Beginning of term Questionnaire
  - Questions to Ask about Works You are Studying
  - Weekly technical requirement recordings/uploads
- Repertoire Jury Examination or Degree recital 20% of your grade
- Studio class attendance and participation 10% of your grade
- Departmental attendance and performance participation 10% of your grade  
Includes lesson observation

### **WEEKLY LESSON INFORMATION:** There are 13 lessons each term.

- Each lesson will be graded based on evidence of preparation and one week's growth in the practice room.  
Your weekly lesson grade will be based upon:
  - Quality of preparation
  - Consistency of preparation
  - Consistency of progress
  - Attitude and professionalism
  - "Non-clarinet" preparation (Weekly lesson log, score study, recording evaluation, listening to recordings, uploading scores, conducting and singing your part, etc.)
- Lesson assignments vary according to each student's needs and respective level.
- Barring any special medical issues, I expect regular practice to be both consistent and efficient.
  - I expect a **minimum** of 3 hours a day of practice for MUAM enrollment and a **minimum** of 1.5 hours for MUAC enrollment.
- Generally, one etude at a PERFORMANCE level will be coached each week
- A minimum of TWO complete works will be covered each Non-Recital term.
  - Typically, at least one of these works will be a work with piano.

- You are also responsible for preparing the technical requirements as assigned on a weekly basis.
  - Please upload recordings of weekly technique assignments to your Google drive for evaluation.

**Your lesson letter grade will be computed according to the following scale:**

- A: **SUPERIOR WORK** and work ethic.  
All assigned material prepared in an excellent manner, meets all expectations.
- B: **GOOD WORK** and work ethic.  
All assigned material prepared to a proficient level, close to expectations.
- C: **SOME EVIDENCE OF WORK**  
Material prepared, but not meeting potential and not advancing at an obvious rate.
- D: **MINIMAL EVIDENCE OF WORK:**  
Walking through the door but unprepared.
- F: Missed lesson without prior notice or legitimate reason.

**Technical Requirements:**

To ensure that you encounter a wide spectrum of exercises and studies to enhance your fundamental skills, I created a “Course of Study/Technical Requirements” that is housed in the Google Drive and listed on your Lesson Log.

- Assignments for technical requirements for each lesson (and each term) will be based on this curriculum.
- To save valuable lesson time, I ask that you record your technical requirements each week and upload the recordings into your folder on the Google Drive.
- Please have these recordings uploaded **BEFORE** your weekly lesson.
- We will listen back in your lesson, and you will (self) evaluate these materials.
- Even if we don't always get to technical requirements in lessons, my expectation is that you will ‘pass off’ each of the requirements by uploading recordings of the exercises to your Google folder each week.
- Any technical requirements that are incomplete by the end of term will negatively impact your final grade.

**Weekly Lesson Attendance:**

Perfect attendance is expected for lessons, studio classes, and recital attendance, however, should the need to miss a lesson or any required event, please inform in advance of the lesson as much as possible.

- Please **DO NOT COME TO YOUR LESSON** if you have any symptoms of illness. We will reschedule your lesson for a later date.
- A lesson will be excused for valid reasons including (but not limited to): illness, family emergency, and conflict with University/Ensemble performances, and a make-up lesson will be scheduled at our mutual discretion.
- I, in turn, may need to reschedule some lessons. As much as possible, I will notify you of any necessary changes in a timely fashion and, of course, will reschedule any missed lessons.
- Lessons missed without prior notice or a valid excuse will be considered unexcused, will not be made up, and will receive an F, negatively impacting your final grade.

**I often run over the ‘scheduled’ lesson time...:** I am always enthusiastic about getting you as much information as possible in your lessons. Therefore, it is not uncommon for me to run overtime in lessons. If you have another commitment immediately following your lesson, please help me to stay on schedule by letting me know at the beginning of your lesson and by setting a timer so that we finish on time.

**JURY EXAMINATION POLICY:** All students complete repertoire jury or degree recital each term for a panel of applied faculty members. This examination functions as the final exam for this course. Your jury performance is evaluated on:

- Clear, consistent tone quality;
- Dynamic and tonal control;
- Sensitivity to intonation;
- Rhythmic precision and control
- Appropriate musical style (and articulation);

- Technical accuracy;
- Expressive phrasing;
- Understanding of the formal organization of the piece.
- An appreciation of stage presence and the art of performing.

### ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION COMPONENTS:

#### Studio Class/Departmentals:

- **All students, regardless of major and concentration, are required to attend Studio Class** on Mondays from 5 to 6:30 pm in MU297 **and Clarinet Departmentals** on Fridays from 1:00pm-1:50pm in Voertman Hall.
- The Departmental is a forum for performance. Its primary purpose is to give students the opportunity to perform for each other. The class may also be used for presentations, lectures and topics ranging from technical skills, pedagogy, new music, recordings, career management, and other various topics of interest.
- **Attendance at both classes is required for everyone enrolled in Applied Lessons.**
  - You are allowed one absence for either (either excused or unexcused) before it adversely impacts your final course grade.
  - To make up any additional absences (in order to avoid a grade penalty of one letter per absence) you must attend a concert approved by me. After the performance you must report it using [this link](#).
  - Last minute emergencies (medical issues that can be substantiated with a doctor's note, or family emergencies) will be accommodated at my discretion.
- **My expectation is for each student is to perform a minimum of twice each term in both Departmental AND in Studio Class—a total of 4 performances minimum.** This will be a great opportunity for those preparing for auditions, juries, studio, and degree recitals.
  - **Departmental decorum should match normal concert etiquette and dress.**
  - Studio class decorum is more informal, and these performances may be used for partial performances or “first performances”.
- Attendance for Clarinet Departmentals uses your UNT ID.
  - **Students must swipe in upon arrival in order to receive credit for attending. Those forgetting to swipe in will be marked absent without exception- so remember to swipe in!**

**Recital Attendance:** I expect you **to attend all performances given by your KCL Studio colleagues and UNT clarinet faculty. PERIOD.** You are also expected to attend as many other clarinet concerts as possible. Your growth depends on reinforcement of concepts discussed in lessons and studio class. We do this by LISTENING.

#### Lesson Observation [Undergraduate and Masters Students Only]:

**You are required to observe a professor (other than your own) teach a lesson.** You must stay for the entire lesson. Please upload a summary of the lesson to your Google folder. Note whose lesson you observed, what date, what time, whose studio, and a two to three sentence summary of your biggest ‘take aways’.

#### Other studio assignments:

**Lesson Log: Before each lesson,** please complete a lesson log to your Google Drive folder (template in Google Drive) that details your work, observations, and goals for the week in addition to clarifying what you've prepared for each lesson and listing any questions you may have.

**Repertoire List:** In an attempt to help you begin documenting your professional life and to help me better understand what repertoire suggestion to make each term, I ask you to create/update your repertoire list and upload it to your Google folder. A template for the rep. list is found in the Google Drive.

**Upload musical scores:** To help make instruction as efficient as possible, please upload a .pdf of the complete score of your etudes and repertoire for the term into your Google Drive.

**Studio Questionnaire (fall only)/Skills assessment (fall and spring)/“Questions to Ask About Works You are Studying”:** Please complete these items each term and upload them to your Google folder. Please submit the Questionnaire and Assessment before your first lesson. **“Questions to Ask” should be completed within 2 weeks of beginning new repertoire.**

#### **FURTHER LESSON EXPECTATIONS:**

- Record and annotate each lesson so that you may refer to these recordings throughout the week for your own comprehension and growth.
- **I expect a minimum of two lessons/coachings with your pianist for each work performed.**  
**Please plan accordingly with your time, lesson schedule, and finances.**
- **Jury repertoire will be performed at least once in public prior to jury, ideally in studio class or in mock jury performances to be scheduled.**
- Perform regularly in studio class, a minimum of two times in the term.
- Be exceptionally well acquainted with the scores to your repertoire through vigilant score study and regular listening to recordings.
- Observe other students' lessons. (All instructors' lessons are open at the mutual discretion and approval of both the teacher and student.)
- I expect that you should own or borrow music and scores from the UNT library. Many scores are available for download from IMSLP. Photocopies, except while waiting for the printed score to arrive, are not only unacceptable but illegal.

#### **RECITAL EXPECTATIONS/POLICIES:**

I am delighted that you will prepare recitals and am eager to assist.

- Please try your utmost to schedule coaching sessions with piano and/or chamber groups during your regularly scheduled lesson time.
  - If this is not possible, please attempt to trade lessons with a colleague.
  - In the last case scenario, we will investigate rescheduling your lesson.
- **As above, please plan for a minimum of two lessons/coachings with your pianist with me for each work performed. Please plan accordingly with your finances.**
- **Recital repertoire will be performed at least once in public prior to recital, ideally in Departmental or studio class, ideally with pianist.**
- **I expect those presenting degree recitals to provide well-written program notes for each work included on the program. These notes should be made available to recital attendees. Please have a draft of your notes ready at least a week in advance for my editing.**
- If your recital performance falls before or at midterm, it is my discretion whether or not you perform a jury at the end of the term.
- Please try to schedule a dress rehearsal time when scheduling your recital time. Please coordinate with me before scheduling these times. I am happy to attend dress rehearsal times during the regular business day hours or as early as necessary in the mornings. However, it is difficult for me to attend dress rehearsals in the evenings, especially those after 9 pm. Please do your utmost to consider these guidelines in scheduling.

**Lesson Materials:** Handbooks of materials including the “KCL Handbook”, “ELV Handbook”, and UNT Handbook are compiled for your use in lessons and uploaded to Google Drive--along with a great deal of other materials. You are expected to have your own copy of all etude and method books and repertoire in print from which we work. Handbooks may be printed in UNT Computer Labs and collated by Eagle Images for minimal cost. I expect you to have all materials assigned in each lesson.

**Group Warm Ups:** In an effort to encourage daily, diligent attention to fundamentals and in an effort to help you learn to organize your own warm ups in practice, I will offer a group warm up/fundies session weekly for you to join. This is not required; however, it is strongly encouraged. My observation is that students who attend regularly develop significantly stronger fundamental skills during their time at UNT than students who choose not to attend.

### **Other Miscellaneous Stuff:**

The studio has an extensive CD/Tape/Record library, and an extensive collection of literature. These materials can be made available to you through a sign-out procedure. If you borrow pieces or etudes books and would like to copy them, please do so and order the etudes/pieces promptly so that you are not in possession of photocopied materials---this is for your own protection! Furthermore, I ask that you return materials ASAP after you check them out so that they may be accessible to others in the studio. Careful attention to these guidelines is much appreciated. We are very fortunate to have the former personal libraries of James Gillespie and John Scott as part of our studio library, as well as decades of main library acquisitions for clarinet.

**Reference letters:** I am delighted to provide reference letters in your behalf. Ideally, please provide me with two weeks' notice in advance of the deadline so that I will have your letter for you promptly.

**Clarinet Club:** We have a UNT Clarinet Club that organizes a variety of clarinet activities on campus including social gatherings, helping request funding for guest artists, and helping us to build an even better sense of community. If you are interested in becoming a part of the leadership team, please speak with them.

**International Clarinet Association:** I highly encourage each of you join the International Clarinet Association. Dues are \$10 a year for students. As a member, you will receive The Clarinet magazine in addition to other benefits. The magazine is terrific for staying informed of "the latest" in the clarinet world.

**DFW area music events:** I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE you to take advantage of the many events offered in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Wind Symphony, and many, many others. For most organizations, student tickets are offered at a greatly reduced rate. Keep a calendar of local events and concerts and attend as many of them as you can!

**Questions:** are welcomed at any time! I'll do my best to answer, and I'll look up the answer if I don't know it. I absolutely expect and welcome your input and active participation. Your colleagues are also a tremendous source of information and inspiration. Don't hesitate to ask questions of any UNT clarinet faculty if I am not available.

**Problems/Concerns:** I take very seriously my responsibilities as your teacher. I will do my utmost to guide you using the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout the years. I trust that you will trust my experience and judgment. However, I realize that our perceptions may sometimes differ, and I'm happy to discuss these differences. **Don't hesitate to notify me at once if you are having any difficulties or problems regarding your lesson. I can't modify/change/help with something if I don't know there is a problem.** Please don't hesitate to ask questions if you have them and to reach out for help if you need it!

Some final thoughts:

- ▶ Your path is your own....don't compare yourselves to others! You're unique and have your own "superpowers."
- ▶ Learn from others! BE CURIOUS, NOT JUDGMENTAL!
- ▶ "Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds...."
- ▶ Your experience will be what YOU make it. It's on you to get involved and take advantage of all the possibilities.
- ▶ You're not alone! Try to figure it out yourself, but if you can't, ask for help. Don't be afraid to admit when you don't know or understand. Ask questions!
- ▶ WORK HARD (but mindfully)! PRACTICE LOTS (mindfully)! STUDY DILIGENTLY!
- ▶ Eat healthfully!
- ▶ A good night's sleep, not caffeine, is often the best remedy.
- ▶ Take time for you....gym, nature, friends, concerts, sleep; whatever charges your batteries.
- ▶ BE KIND!