

**Jazz Performance Fundamentals**  
**Course Syllabus for MUS 1131**  
**University of North Texas**  
**Spring 2026**

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**Goal:** To explore the history of jazz styles in both solo and ensemble jazz trombone, and how/when to implement them in the real world.

**Course Objective:** Students will learn to listen critically, develop skills to replicate various jazz styles, and delve deeply into the history of the instrument in jazz groups. The students will have both playing and research assignments that will allow them to explore areas of interest, while simultaneously being challenged by their peers in the group. This class will also replicate real life scenarios, such as reading sessions, arranging assignments, audition situations, giving research presentations and playing solo in front of their peers.

**Required Materials:** Students should expect to be responsible for obtaining any sheet music, CDs or Digital Audio Files, or books as assigned. Students should bring their instruments to class each and every class. Access to a working email account is required and signing up for a file sharing service (like Dropbox, Google Drive, etc) will allow the Instructor to share required and supplementary course materials with the student. No textbook will be required.

**Research Presentation (Spring):**

Each student will choose a trombonist to research, and give a presentation on at the end of each year. (30 minutes). This player should be one that is identified with a particular style, and mutually agreed on with the instructor. Students should plan to present a paper that articulates biographical information, musical development information, analyses of at least three (3) improvisations, written notation of these three transcriptions, as full of a discography as possible (as a leader and sideman), five (5) classic recordings by this artist, three to five essential phrases that help you to easily identify this player, and a played demonstration of the students' concept of this artist over a blues.

**Attendance:** Students should expect to arrive to each class on time. Tardiness will result in the lowering of the student's final grade by one third (A becomes A-, A- becomes B, etc) starting the third occurrence, and lowered by an additional one third for each subsequent occurrence. If the student will miss class, an email notifying the instructor is appreciated. Students may not make-up participation in mock-auditions, presentations, etc. Each unexcused absence after the first two will result in the final grade lowered one letter (A becomes B, A- becomes B-, etc).

**Grading:** Students will be graded based on their measured progress towards goals, overall preparedness, and execution of assigned materials.

- Attendance/Class Participation/ In Class Quizzes/ Mock Auditions (50%)

- Assignment Preparedness and weekly tracking of assignments (25%)
- Final Presentation/Paper (25%)

\*\*\* On May 13, 2020 the UNT Faculty Senate approved the following attendance policy as it relates to the current COVID-19 pandemic:

**COVID-19 impact on attendance**

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

| Week | Monday Date | Monday Class   | Wednesday Date | Wednesday Class  |
|------|-------------|--|----------------|--|
| 1    | 1/12/26     | NEW: Course Overview<br>Diminished & Augmented Families Introduction / Bebop Phrasing  | 1/14/26        | NEW: Diminished & Augmented Arpeggios and Application<br>Resolutions on both<br>Bebop Scales (Major, Dominant) Resolutions |
| 2    | 1/19/26     | MLK DAY - No Class   | 1/21/26        | REVIEW: Review of Wednesday's content (from 1/14)  |
| 3    | 1/26/26     | NEW: Bebop Scale Applications (Take the A Train)<br>Chromatic Enclosures / More Bebop Applications   | 1/28/26        | REVIEW: Review of Monday's content   |
| 4    | 2/2/26      | NEW: Application of Bebop Vocab on the blues<br>Playing the Melody of Bouncin with Bud<br>Write and present an eighth note etude using the Bebop Techniques above on the Blues<br>Learn / Review Have you Met Miss Jones | 2/4/26         | REVIEW: Review of Monday's content   |
| 5    | 2/9/26      | NEW: Diminished Scales<br>Diminished Scale   | 2/11/26        | REVIEW: Review of Monday's content   |

|    |         |  |         |  |
|----|---------|--|---------|--|
|    |         | Applications   |         |  |
| 6  | 2/16/26 | NEW: Improvising Counterpoint<br>(Have you met miss jones)   | 2/18/26 | REVIEW: Review of Monday's content                   |
| 7  | 2/23/26 | NEW: Improvising Counterpoint Cont.  | 2/25/26 | QUIZ: Counterpoint Quiz<br>(Have you met miss jones) |
| 8  | 3/2/26  | NEW: Midterm Review & EVALS  | 3/4/26  | EXAM: MIDTERM PLAYING EVALS                          |
| 9  | 3/9/26  | <b>SPRING BREAK</b>  | 3/11/26 | SPRING BREAK   |
| -- | 3/16/26 | NEW: Thad Jones/Mel Lewis - Sight Reading in the Style of  | 3/18/26 | More Thad Jones                                      |
| 10 | 3/23/26 | NEW: Gil Evans - Sight Reading in the Style of   | 3/25/26 | More Gil Evans                                       |
| 11 | 3/30/26 | NEW: Bob Brookmeyer - Sight Reading in the Style of Maria Schneider - Sight Reading in the Style of                | 4/1/26  | More Bob and Maria                                   |
| 12 | 4/6/26  | NEW: Altered Scale Altered Scale Applications  | 4/8/26  | REVIEW: Review of Monday's content                   |
| 13 | 4/13/26 | NEW: JJ Johnson Transcriptions (Play and Analyze)  | 4/15/26 | Curtis Fuller Transcriptions (Play and Analyze)      |
| 14 | 4/20/26 | NEW: Transcription of your choice - play and analyze<br>Improvising on the Blues in the style of JJ and Curtis<br> | 4/22/26 | REVIEW: Review of Semester for Final Exam            |
| 15 | 4/27/26 | PRESENTATIONS: FINAL PRESENTATIONS   | 4/29/26 | PRESENTATIONS: FINAL PRESENTATIONS                   |

**\*\*updated for Spring 2026\*\***

## **Course Syllabi Information**

For complete information on course syllabi requirements, please see the

[university's policy.](#)

(<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049> )

### **DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

- **Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator**
- **Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322**
- **Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293**
- **Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard**
- **Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk**
- **Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building**
- **Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side**
- **Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side**
- **Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms**
- **Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

**Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure].**

**Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:**

a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

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

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

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 Dean of Students 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](#). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **Health and Safety Information**

Students can access information about health and safety at:

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

## **Registration Information for Students**

See: [Spring Academic Calendar Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

## **Semester Calendar, Spring 2026**

See: [Spring Semester Calendar](#)

Link:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

## **Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026**

See above

## **Financial Aid and 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 hours registered. 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.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

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. It is recommended that 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 before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

### **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. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. 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. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

#### **RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

#### **COUNSELING AND TESTING**

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

## **ADD/DROP POLICY**

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

## **CARE TEAM**

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

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