

MUJS 2360 Jazz Improvisation Fall 2018 Syllabus

MUJS 2360.002 Monday/Wednesday 2:00-2:50 (Room 262)

Instructor: Noel Johnston
office: South Practice 136
email: noel.johnston@unt.edu
Phone/text: 940 300-6635
office hours: (by appointment)

Learning objectives

- 1) To improve your ability to improvise by telling a story in a jazz style.
- 2) To improve your ability to sing jazz lines and rhythms.
- 3) To improve your ability to write down music you hear.
- 4) To improve your ability to hear and perform music you read.

Required text

No required text this semester

Please maintain a folder with manuscript paper & a place to keep handouts together and organized.

Evaluation

Test 1 (5%)
Test 2 (8%)
Test 3 (12%)
Test 4 (15%)
Test 5 (15%)
Test 6 (20%)
Final exam 25%
Total, 100%

A= 90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below

Midterm and final exams will include an in-class portion and may include an Individual portion. Because of the size of the class, if there is an individual portion for the final it will happen during week 15. Every exam is comprehensive, which means it includes all of the course topics up to that point. The standard mathematical rounding procedure will apply to final grades. For example, 89.4 is a B, 89.5 is an A--unless you lose the round-up for attendance (read on).

Attendance policy

Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. You may miss two class meetings with no penalty. If you miss three or four, you lose the round-up feature in the grading scale. If you miss five or more classes, you must drop the class or your final grade will be F. I expect you to arrive on time and to stay for the entire class. If you need to leave early, speak with me before class.

The only excused absences I will accept are:

- 1) Those for university-sponsored activities, such as ensemble tours, which you must document in writing;
- 2) Extended serious illness requiring a doctor's care, which you must document in writing. Ordinary "not feeling well" does not count as extended serious illness. If you are not present when the roster is passed around to sign at the start of each class, you are absent. Please make sure your phone won't ring during class, and please do not bring food or drink into class.

Course activities

Each class will be a mix of playing, listening, singing, and transcribing. Bring a music manuscript notebook to each class.

Course topics

We will study chord and scale relationships as well as playing tunes by ear. We will work on exercises and transcribe solos on the various tunes we work on including: Blue Soul, Sweet Georgia Brown, Lady Bird, Green Dolphin Street, There Will Never Be Another You, and All the Things You Are.

Professor's expectations of the students

I expect you to: Keep a positive attitude

- 1) Take responsibility for your learning in this class
- 2) Attend every class, arrive on time, and stay the entire time
- 3) Arrive for your office appointments on time
- 4) Work on the skills we're studying outside of class

What students can expect from the professor

You can expect me to:

- 1) Treat every student with respect and the expectation that every student is capable of doing well in this class
- 2) Begin and end class on time
- 3) Allow time for questions in class
- 4) Be prepared for class
- 5) Be available outside of class in the office or by email
- 6) Be willing to modify what we do in class in order to help you better understand what we are working on.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities that affect their work in this class are invited to speak with me privately about it.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty means presenting only your own ideas as your own, and giving credit for the ideas of others when you use them in your academic work. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Students are expected to follow the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. In this class, plagiarism of artist's solos is encouraged.

Evaluation of the course

The standard UNT evaluation will be done at the end of the course. If you have comments or suggestions for improving the course before then, please give them to me.

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, 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.

LINK: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/integrity>

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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

LINK: Student Code of Conduct - <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.

LINK: 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 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.

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

2018-2019 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

<http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=2120>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2018-2019

<https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2018-19/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

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 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.

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 being doing so.

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.

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 Blackboard/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.

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

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>. For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

This syllabus is subject to change with notice.