

MUED 4109

Methods and Materials for Teaching Elementary Music in Schools

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Information

Semester: Spring 2027

Class Location: Music Building 137

Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:20 pm

Class Modality: In person

Course Description

UNT Catalogue Description: Rehearsal objectives, instructional techniques and materials specific to beginning band and orchestra; rehearsal management and organization; visual and aural diagnostic skills for teaching performance fundamentals; lab school field experience

Context: As instrumental music teachers, our programs are often in the spotlight of public attention, opinion, and expectations. The combination of teaching, performing, and serving is a delicate “balancing act” that is often unique to music educators. Although the structure of programs may differ from school to school, instrumental music teaching in any setting often requires attention to musical, social, and organizational goals.

In this course, we will learn and integrate key professional skills needed to attain success in elementary and middle school instrumental teaching contexts. These skills include 1) knowing how to select and assign instruments to students, 2) developing instructional language that can be understood by students across various ages and cognitive profiles, 3) articulating and implementing classroom management techniques, 4) analyzing, critiquing, and teaching various method books, and 5) appreciating the full humanity of every student in order to teach through empathy and validation.

Note: This section of the course is designed for students whose primary instrument(s) are violin, viola, cello, or bass. We will examine a variety of repertoire, including music written for beginner and intermediate string orchestra.

Course Objectives

1. Practice and refine ensemble teaching techniques through podium time, direct feedback, self-reflection, and metacognition.
2. Understand and integrate the basic administration and organizational skills needed to teach and direct a school instrumental music program.
3. Review and evaluate repertoire appropriate for use in a variety of school ensembles.
4. Prepare instrumental scores and lesson plans for instructional contexts.
5. Reflect and discuss the developmental needs of young students – especially children and young adolescents – in relation to instrumental teaching and learning.
6. Explore any other topic deemed relevant as determined by the sole authority of the Instructor.

Course Content, Readings, & Media

All content, readings, and media will be provided by the instructor. **There are no required out-of-pocket costs required for students to take this course.** Students are not required to purchase any books, equipment, or other materials for this course.

Teaching Philosophy

I am deeply committed to supporting all of my students. I believe that music education is a noble profession that can create musical connection, belonging, and community in children and adults. If your goal is to become a part of this profession, it is my goal to help you in any way I can. You are welcome to contact me during office hours if you wish to have a conversation about our work in class, music education in general, or any other area in which you may need professional support or guidance.

Course Overview

(subject to change)

Introduction

January 13 & 15: Introduction – Opening Teaching Activities

January 20 & 22: Refining Teaching Activities & Method Books

January 27 & 29: Method Books, cont'd & How Children Experience Music

Basic Teaching Skills for Beginner Students

February 3 & 5: Teaching Beginner Repertoire

February 10: Understanding Repertoire Lists

February 12: NO CLASS (TMEA)

February 17 & 19: Principles of Effective Instruction (Duke)

February 24: Child & Adolescent Development

February 26: NO CLASS (ASTA)

Peer Teaching

March 4 & 6: Round 1

Week of March 10: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

March 17 & 19: Round 1

March 24 & 26: Round 2

March 31 & April 1: Round 2

April 7 & 9: Round 2

April 14 & 16: Round 3

April 21 & 23: Round 3

April 28 & May 1: Round 3 & Last Day of Class

Grading Rubric

Peer Teaching and Learning: 40%

A major component of this course involves active teaching, i.e. “podium time”. Students will continuously prepare repertoire and lesson plans in order to teach the class ensemble on a regular basis. We will use a rotating schedule to determine who teaches on what dates. Peer teaching episodes will incorporate standard required lesson plans as per TEA and the College of Music as well as holistic, direct feedback from the instructor. Additional musicians from other courses/programs may join us for rehearsals depending on availability. This grade includes lesson plans, score preparation, and the actual peer teaching and rehearsing episodes.

Reflections, Readings, and Assignments: 30%

Additional assignments (i.e., quizzes, watching/listening to videos/media, etc) will be used to supplement the peer teaching episodes as needed. At times, I may also ask you to submit written reflections to Canvas in response to questions designed to evoke self-awareness and metacognition (“thinking about your own thinking”) to support your development.

Attendance and Participation: 30%

Daily attendance and full, thoughtful participation are required to pass this course, representing a full 30% of your grade. See Attendance Policy below for details.

25 Hours of University-Required Observations: (Completion)

Per the State of Texas, you are required to fulfill a total of 25 hours of observations in a local middle or elementary school. Observation times must be scheduled throughout the semester at local schools to satisfy this component of the course/music education program. **Observations must be documented and uploaded by May 1, 2025. Course requirements cannot be met without field experience completion. Students who do not complete this requirement on time will receive an Incomplete (I) for the course and may jeopardize their degree timeline and/or student teaching timeline.**

Course Policies

Late Assignments

I reserve the right to give any late assignment a grade of “0”. Any incomplete or not submitted assignments will receive a “0” at the end of the semester.

In general, I have found that late work disrupts learning, distracts from the original purpose of the assignment, creates unnecessary labor for the instructor, and increases stress for students. If there is a serious emergency that prevents you from turning in work on time, I urge you to email me **before** the assignment is due to make alternate arrangements.

Attendance

Attendance at all class meetings is required.

Three unexcused absences for any reason (aside from University-excused absences) will subject the course grade to being lowered by one full letter.

More than three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course, as per Music Education Division policy.

If an unavoidable situation prevents you from attending class (for example, illness with a doctor’s note), please email me before class to determine whether the absence can be excused.

Daily attendance will be taken by the instructor. All students are responsible for staying informed of in-class assignments, email or Canvas announcements, physical handouts, turning assignments in on time, and informing the instructor in writing of any circumstances affecting attendance or performance in class.

Note: If you have a disability that impacts your attendance, please carefully read the ODA statement on Page 6 of this syllabus and consider contacting the Office of Disability Access (disability.unt.edu) if you wish to engage the University Policy on making “reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities”.

Jury Scheduling

End-of-semester juries must not be scheduled during class time.

Any absence due to a jury will not be excused.

Use of Generative AI

In this course, the use of GenAI tools (i.e., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc) is limited as directed by the Instructor. Any additional use requires explicit permission, proper citation, and authentic student work. Students must ask the Instructor prior to any proposed use of AI and obtain permission each time. Lack of adherence to this policy may result in a failing grade.

Links and Resources

Canvas Technical Requirements

<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

Help desk information included on website

Additional Student Support Services

Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)

Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)

Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)

Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)

Counseling and Testing Services
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)

UNT Food Pantry (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)
Academic Support Services

Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)

Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)

UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)

Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

University Required Syllabus Statements

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/

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. (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: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar, Fall 2024

See: [Fall 2024 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2024

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/fall-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>