

Advanced Afro-Cuban Ensemble

MUCM 3617.513

MUEN 5617.513

MW 3:00-3:50 pm

Bain Hall 101

Semester: Fall 2026

Instructor: José M. Aponte

Email: Jose.Aponte@unt.edu

Office Hours: By appointment. Bain Hall 201

Course Purpose: The course aims to introduce students to intermediate and advanced concepts of the most well-known Afro-Cuban and Afro-Caribbean folkloric music styles. Through lectures, research, and live performances, students will build a solid foundation in the language of these musical traditions. This new knowledge will enhance their abilities as listeners, performers, composers, arrangers, and music educators.

Attendance Policy:

1. Attendance is mandatory since all information and practical experience will be provided during class. More than two absences will negatively impact the final grade, decreasing it by one letter grade for each additional absence. Students must notify the instructor if they cannot attend, and the notification should be sent via text or email before class.
1. **The student is responsible for material covered in class during an absence.**
2. Being punctual for class and rehearsals is essential. Students who habitually arrive late without a valid reason will face penalties, including a lowering of their final grades.
3. **Concert and performance times may change unexpectedly. Dress rehearsals typically last longer than three hours, so it's best not to plan other activities on the same day as the dress rehearsal or performance.**
4. **Not attending or participating in the semester's final concert, dress rehearsal, or any other public or private performance will lead to a failing grade.**

Ways of Communication:

1. Email: **Only a UNT email address will be accepted.**
2. **GroupMe Chat Service:** Scan the QR code in the module section.
3. All class members must complete this task by the end of **week 1 (Wednesday, August 19, 2026).**
4. **The student is expected to attend any unscheduled task, activity, or performance announced via the chat service or UNT email.**

Performance Dress Code:

1. Wearing white pants or white skirts is mandatory for the ensemble's concerts and performances.
2. An official performance shirt has been designated, and students will be responsible for its cost, estimated between \$40 and \$50. Information on the price and how to acquire it will be shared by week 4.
3. Performers are not permitted to wear sports shoes or sandals.
4. **Please adhere to these requirements to prevent removal from the concert program and a failing final grade.**

Rehearsal Room Use Policy:

1. After each rehearsal, all ensemble members are required to arrange the room into a classroom setup, adhering to the organizational format posted at the door. No one will be released until the room is properly organized.
2. **All ensemble members are responsible for storing equipment neatly in the storage room and locking the door afterward. The storage room door should remain closed at all times when not in use.**
3. Once all chores are complete, scan the room for any trash to collect and throw in the garbage container as you leave.
4. By default, Bain 101 room doors are "locked" when not in use. All students in Performance, Jazz Studies, or Music Ed should make sure to close and lock all doors when leaving.

Hearing Protection is Required for this Course:

Hearing protection is **MANDATORY** for every student registered. The [UNT Speech and Hearing Center](#) will provide a hearing test to every enrolled UNT student for a flat fee of \$25. In addition, “musician’s earplugs” can be purchased at the clinic for around \$200. The College of Music provides foam earplugs at no charge; students can pick these up from the repair shop in the Music Annex, room 106.

SPOT Feedback:

All members of the class and ensemble are encouraged to evaluate this course and its instructor at the conclusion of the semester. Your insights and perspectives as students are invaluable to us, the faculty. Such feedback assists us in enhancing our teaching effectiveness and better supporting your academic development and learning experience.

Course Policy on the Use of Generative AI Tools

To support your learning effectively, complete all graded assignments independently, avoiding any use of generative AI. Do not use AI tools to create content such as text, video, audio, images, code, or other materials for assignments or classroom activities. Submitting AI-generated content as your own, whether by copying, pasting, or paraphrasing, violates UNT’s academic integrity policy. If you have questions about the appropriate use of generative AI in this course, please contact me via email or in person.

Important Student Information

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: [Fall Academic Calendar Information](#)

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

Semester Calendar, Fall 2026

See: [Fall Semester Calendar](#)

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

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

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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>

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>

Additional Resources for Faculty

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (including sample statement for syllabi)

See: [Faculty Guide for the Use of AI](#)

Link: <https://guides.library.unt.edu/artificial-intelligence/AIfaculty>

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/>