Brazilian Ensemble

MUCM 3617.507

MUEN 5617.507

MW 4:00-4:50 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: To provide students with foundational knowledge of the most well-known Brazilian folk music styles. Through lectures, research, and live performances, students will gain a solid general understanding of the language. This new knowledge will enhance their abilities as listeners, performers, composers, arrangers, and music educators.

Attendance Policy:

1. Attendance is MANDATORY because all information and practical experience will be provided during class. More than two (2) absences will result in a lower final grade, decreasing by one letter grade for each absence.
2. Students must notify the instructor if they cannot attend, and this notification should be sent via text or email before the class. **The student will be responsible for the material covered in class during an absence.**

1. It is essential to arrive on time for class and rehearsals. Students who regularly arrive late without a valid reason will face penalties, including a reduction in their final grade.
2. **Concert and performance schedules are subject to sudden modifications. Dress rehearsals are anticipated to extend beyond three (3) hours, and it is advisable to refrain from scheduling other activities on the same day as the dress rehearsal or performance.**
3. **Failure to attend or participate 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 responsible for attending any unscheduled task, activity, or performance announced via chat service or UNT email.**

Performance Dress Code:

1. It is an absolute requirement that you wear white pants or white skirts (ladies only, please) to the ensemble's concerts and performances.
2. A special type of sports jersey has been chosen as the official performance outfit. Students will need to cover the cost, which is expected to be between $25 and $40. More details about the cost and how to get the jersey will be shared by week 4.
3. Sandals are not permitted for male performers. Suitable sports shoes are acceptable, and dress sandals are allowed for female performers.
4. **Please adhere to these requirements to prevent removal from the concert program and to avoid receiving a failing final grade.**

Rehearsal Room Use Policy:

1. After each rehearsal, all ensemble members are required to organize the room into a classroom setup, following the arrangement posted at the door. No one will be dismissed until the room is properly arranged.
2. **All ensemble members are responsible for storing equipment neatly inside the storage room and locking the door after use. The storage room door should remain closed at all times when not in use.**
3. Once all chores are completed, please check the room for any trash that can be disposed of in the garbage container as you leave.
4. The default status of doors in room Bain 101 is "locked" when not in use. All students in Performance, Jazz Studies, or Music Ed are responsible for making sure all doors are closed and locked 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 class and ensemble members are encouraged to evaluate this course and its instructor at the end of the semester. Your opinions and views as students are important to us, faculty members. They help us improve and become more effective in our mission to support your growth and education efficiently.

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

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/