

Drum Set/Latin Percussion

Prof. Jose Aponte Lesson Studio

MUAC 1521/3521.706

MUAM 6521.706

MUJS 5539.702

(Scheduled time at Bain Hall 201)

Semester: Fall 2026

Instructor: José M. Aponte

Email: Jose.Aponte@unt.edu

Office Hours: By appointment at Bain Hall 201.

Course Purpose: This course aims to teach students the fundamental concepts of Jazz/Latin Jazz drum set and Latin American percussion performance. Over 13 weeks, the focus will be on instrumental practices and techniques specific to drum set or Latin American percussion. Additionally, the course will explore musical history, cultural backgrounds, and study of influential masters. Through lessons, barrier material, audio-visual resources, research, jury transcription, and regular practice, students will build a solid foundation in both the instrument and musical language.

Attendance Policy:

1. Since all information and practical experience will be provided and demonstrated during lesson time, attendance is REQUIRED.
2. Students should inform their instructor if they are unable to attend a lesson by calling, texting, emailing, or leaving a note on the door.
3. **Not informing your instructor may impact your final grade. Lessons missed by the student won't be rescheduled unless authorized by the instructor.**
4. **Any lessons missed by the instructor will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient time.**
5. The student will be permitted one unexcused absence; any subsequent absences will result in a one-letter deduction from the final grade.
6. ***All students participating in lessons (including YOU!) must attend the Percussion/Drum Set Departmentals on Fridays at 1 pm. Missing these sessions will result in a lower final grade.***

The Friday Workshop/Departmental offers a valuable chance to enjoy outstanding performances and encourage your fellow drummers and percussionists. It is a crucial component of your musical learning journey.

Do not miss it!

Friday Departmental Performance Credit

1. Jazz Studies Departmental Performance:

- **You are required to do a departmental performance.**
- The selected repertoire must be connected to the Latin Jazz Drum Set Curriculum you are studying with Prof. Aponte Studio.
- The departmental performance piece must be approved by Prof. Aponte during your lesson time before you can schedule the performance.
- A coaching session with Prof. Aponte is required one week before the performance for final approval.
- Follow the Drum Set Departmental Guidelines carefully, as outlined in the Module section of your CANVAS page.

2. Non-Jazz Drum Set and Latin Percussion Students:

- **You are not required to perform in a departmental setting on a Drum set or Latin Percussion.** You still need to obtain a Departmental Performance Credit, which should be completed through your usual percussion studio.
- **If you wish to perform in the percussion department on the drum set or Latin percussion, your repertoire must align with the non-jazz drum set/Latin percussion curriculum you studied in Prof. Aponte's studio.**
- The departmental performance piece must be approved by Prof. Aponte during your lesson time before you can schedule the performance.
- A coaching session with Prof. Aponte, scheduled a week prior to the performance, is required for final approval.
- Follow the Drum Set Departmental Guidelines carefully, as outlined in the Module section of your CANVAS page.

Jazz Studies Students

CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FALL 2026

Concert attendance is an extraordinary opportunity to support your colleagues, learn from observing guest artists, and experience creative music that informs your future artistic self. This

is an assessed component of your Lab Band Course. All undergraduate jazz majors in a jazz lab band are required to attend a select series of Jazz Studies concerts each semester. Each unexcused absence from a required Jazz Studies concert will result in a half-letter grade deduction from your Lab Band grade. If conflicts arise with the classical ensembles at the Murchison, we will coordinate with Dr. Trachsel to ensure that no student is placed in a difficult position when selecting which concert to attend.

Undergraduate Jazz Studies majors must either swipe their student ID or scan a QR code in the lobby at least **fifteen minutes before** the concert begins. The check-in table will close five minutes prior, and you won't be able to check in after that. After the concert ends, unlike the Conducting and Ensembles Division policy, you won't need to swipe your ID again. We trust everyone will stay for the entire concert rather than doing the second swipe immediately. Here are the dates for the required Jazz Studies concerts for Fall 2026.

- - Concerts required for Fall 2026:
 - Monday, November 2, Voertman Hall, 8:00 pm – Jazz Strings
 - Saturday, November 7, Voertman Hall, 6:30 pm – Latin Jazz Lab
 - Monday, November 9, Voertman Hall, 8:00 pm – Two & Three O'Clock
 - Friday, November 13, 8:00 pm – Jazz Singers
 - Monday, November 16, 8:00 pm – One O'Clock Lab Band
 - Tuesday, November 17, 8:00 pm – Zebras (Commercial Music Lab)

Communication Systems: Email Address and GroupMe Chat Service.

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 (Friday, August 21, 2026).**
4. **The student will be responsible for handling any unscheduled task, special assignment, activity, or performance that may be announced through the chat service or UNT email.**

Weekly Assignments and Barrier Information

Please follow the UNT Percussion Manual schedule regarding private applied percussion lessons. Lessons are divided into twelve (12) weekly assignments to aid individuals in pacing themselves throughout the semester. **Independent of whatever's been discussed during lesson time, students must prepare the assigned barrier material before their scheduled lesson time.** The assignments are arranged to allow ample time for preparation.

Jury Transcription:

The material for the transcriptions will be selected by **week 3** (the chosen material should reflect the musical goals of the semester). **The title, drummer, and source** will be **notified to the instructor** at that time.

Revision and completion schedule:

Week 6: Present draft.

Week 8: 1st revision

Week 10: 2nd revision and playable (slow tempo)

Week 12: Submit the complete final transcription. At this stage, the transcription should be playable at the same tempo as the recording.

Using music notation programs such as Dorico and Sibelius is necessary. The final transcription should demonstrate a college-level scholarly standard in presentation quality.

Master Research Presentation:

1. **Select a drumming master by week 3**, preferably the artist from the solo transcription. A brief **PowerPoint** presentation about the artist should be prepared, following the format specified in handout #2, which is attached to the syllabus. **This presentation must be submitted by week 5.**
2. **Only information from scholarly sources** such as textbooks, biographies, dissertations, periodicals, documents, and CD/LP cover reviews will be accepted. While Wikipedia can be a useful starting point for research, it is not always a reliable scholarly source and therefore will not be considered as a bibliographic reference.
3. **The 4th Floor of Willis Library**, also known as the College of Music Library, offers many text resources for your use. These resources are for library use only. My goal is to make these resources accessible to all studio members and to familiarize my students with the resources available in our music library.

Also, meet your librarians. They are there to assist you in making your quest for knowledge enjoyable.

The Styles Performance Test: (Performance and Music Ed. Only)

1. **The SPT must be attempted during the first semester of Non-Jazz Level III.**
2. **By week three, students must contact the players designated for test day and arrange at least four regular rehearsals throughout the semester.**
3. **One rehearsal must be recorded on video for review in Week 11.**
4. **During week 12, a week before the jury, the instructor will review the final rehearsal during lesson time. The student must notify and coordinate with the performers for this event.**
5. **The student will be responsible for ensuring that performers are punctual and prepared to perform at the scheduled time of the test. Tardiness or absence by ensemble members will be duly reflected in the test results.**
6. The student should carefully follow and understand the guidelines outlined in Handout #4, **“Tunes and Guidelines for Drum Set Styles Performance,”** to ensure they are well-prepared and confident in their performance.

The instructor is responsible for answering any questions regarding the test guidelines and procedures. Don't hesitate to seek advice or clarification about the information provided.

For further information regarding private lessons and requirements, consult the UNT Percussion Manual.

Hearing Protection is Required for this Course:

Hearing protection is **Highly Recommended** 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

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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/>