UNT Latin Jazz Lab Band

MULB 1821.500

MULB 5174.520

Mon./Tues./Wed./Thurs. - 12:10–1:00 pm

Lab Band West (MU 282)

Semester: Fall 2026

Instructor: José M. Aponte

Email: Jose.Aponte@unt.edu

Office Hours: By appointment. Bain Hall 201

Course Purpose: To expose the students to the Latin American popular music repertoire using the jazz idiom as the primary vehicle for musical and improvisational expression. The information acquired by the student through the course rehearsals, research, and live performances will give the student a solid basic Latin American Jazz language foundation. The newly acquired knowledge will improve the student's musical abilities as a listener, jazz performer, composer, jazz arranger, and jazz educator.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance Policy:

1. Since all information and practical experience will be given and presented in class, attendance is **MANDATORY**. **Any more than two (2) absences will lower the final grade, one letter grade per absence. The student will be responsible for the material covered in rehearsal during their absence.**
2. It is **imperative to** be on time for class and rehearsals. The wise use of our limited weekly time is paramount. Downbeat time is 12:10 pm. Be sure to consider the set-up time for every rehearsal. **Students who consistently show up late for class without a reasonable excuse will be penalized by lowering their final grade.**
3. If a chair substitute is necessary, a notification by text (GroupMe) or email 24 hours before the day of rehearsal is REQUIRED. **The Latin Jazz Lab members are responsible for sending a capable substitute to the rehearsal.**
4. **No substitutes will be allowed for concerts, performances, or any rehearsal one week before a concert or performance.**

5. Concert and performance times are subject to sudden changes. Dress rehearsals will take up to three (3) hours; scheduling **other activities on the same day of the rehearsal or performance is not recommended.**
6. **Failure to attend and participate in the semester's final concert, dress rehearsal, or any other public or private performance will result in an unsuccessful grade.**

Ways of Communication:

1. Email: **Only a UNT email address will be accepted.**
2. **GroupMe Chat Service -** Scan QR code in the module section.
3. All Lab members must complete this task by the end of **week 1 (Wednesday, August 19, 2026).**
4. **The student will be responsible for attending any unscheduled task, activity or performance that could be announced through the chat service or UNT email.**

Band Book and Band Property Policy:

1. The student is **responsible for** the custody and care of the **Latin Jazz Lab Band Book** and **all its content.** Suppose any loss or damage to the book, written parts, or class material occurs. In that case, it will be up to the **student** and the **section leader** in charge of those materials to cover the monetary cost ($100) of replacement.
2. The student is **responsible for** the custody and care of any **Latin Jazz Lab Band /UNT Jazz Studies Division Property,** especially instruments, bass/guitar amplifiers, and any other equipment (including music stands) used for rehearsals or performances. If any loss or damage to the equipment above-mentioned occurs. In that case, it will be the responsibility of the **student** and the **section leader** responsible for those materials to cover the cost of replacement.
3. **Failure to cover the cost of the lost or damaged materials will result in a failing semester grade.**

Rehearsal Room Use Policy:

1. All the **Lab Members are expected to** arrive at **12:00 pm** to organize the hall for rehearsal. There will be a class before and after our rehearsal. **The 10 minutes before setting up and afterward for cleanup are crucial to keeping schedules running.**
2. **The rhythm section will** organize all the Latin Jazz Percussion equipment inside the storage area and lock the door when finished. **The storage door should be closed when not in use.**
3. When all chores are done, please review the room for any trash that can be collected and deposited in the garbage container on your way out.

Performance Dress Code: Depending on the situation, professional performance attire or a suit and tie is an **absolute requirement. Your performance attire clearly conveys** your commitment to your craft and reflects your professionalism. **Please comply with this requirement to ensure the final grade is maintained.**

JAZZ 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)

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 essential to us faculty members. It helps us improve and become more effective in our mission to assist your growth and education efficiently.

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/