

## **Beginner Afro-Latin Ensemble**

### **An Introduction to Latin American Percussion**

**MUCM 3617.512**

**MUEN 5617.512**

**T-TH 3:00-3:50 pm**

**Bain Hall 101**

**Semester:** Fall 2023

**Instructor:** Jose` M. Aponte

Email: [Jose.Aponte@unt.edu](mailto:Jose.Aponte@unt.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Bain Hall 201

**Course Purpose:** To provide the student with the basic concepts of the most commonly known Afro-Latin American music styles, popular and folkloric. The course will emphasize Afro-Latin percussion performance practices and techniques, a brief history of Afro-Spanish Caribbean and Brazilian music cultures, and an introductory study of the main artists/masters of the language. The information acquired by the student through the lectures, research, and live performances will give the student a strong general foundation of the language. The newly acquired knowledge will serve the student well in improving his/her musical abilities as a listener, performer, composer, arranger, and music educator.

#### **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.** Students should give notice if they cannot attend class. The absence notification will only be sent before class time by text or email.

**The student will be responsible for the material covered in class during his/her absence.**

1. It is **IMPERATIVE to be on time for class and rehearsals**. Students that consistently show up late for class without a reasonable excuse will be penalized with **a lowering of his/her final grade**.
2. **Concert and performance times are subject to sudden changes. Dress rehearsals will take longer than three (3) hours, and scheduling other activities on the same day as the dress rehearsal or performance is not recommended.**
3. **Failure to attend and participate in the semester's final concert, dress rehearsal, or any other public or private performance will result in a failing grade.**

### Ways of Communication

1. Via email: **Only a UNT email address will be accepted.**
2. **Remind Text Service Input Instructions:**
  - On your mobile phones, Enter \*\*\*\*\*
  - In the message window, Enter \*\*\*\*\*
  - **Press Send**
3. All class members need to complete this task by the end of **Week 1 (Friday, August 25, 2023)**
4. If the contact information is not submitted by the due date, **the student will be responsible for attending any unscheduled activity or performance that arises.**

### **Rehearsal Room Use Policy:**

1. All the ensemble members must organize the room into a class format after every rehearsal. Follow the organizational format posted at the door. **No one will be dismissed until the room is in order.**
2. **All ensemble members** will help store all the equipment in an organized manner inside the storage room and lock the door when finished. The **storage room door should always be closed when it is not used.**
3. After chores are done, please overview the room for any trash that can be collected and deposited in the garbage container on your way out.
4. The default status of room (Bain101) doors is **“locked”** when they are not in use. **All Performance, Jazz Studies, or Music Ed Students must ensure that all doors are closed and locked** on the way out.

**Performance Dress Code:** It is an **absolute requirement** the use white pants or white skirts (ladies only, please) for the ensemble's concerts and performances. **Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the lowering of the final grade.**

**Hearing Protection is Required for this Course:** The use of hearing protection is MANDATORY for every student registered in the course. **Students without proper hearing protection will not be allowed to be in the classroom and will be marked as ABSENT.**

For information about how to obtain proper hearing protection, contact the Texas Center for Music and Medicine at [www.unt.edu/tcmm](http://www.unt.edu/tcmm)

### **Grading Policy:**

1. **Concert Performance is 20 % of Final Grade:** A musical piece from the Afro-Spanish Caribbean folkloric repertoire will be performed at the semester concert.
2. **One Comprehensive Final Exam is 40 % of the Final Grade:** All information given in lectures, handouts, student class presentations, and performances will be examined on the test.
3. **One Playing Exam is 20 % of Final Grade:** The class will be divided into groups of three (3). Each group will test on the cáscara/campaneo modes on Tumbadoras, Bongó, and Timbal.
4. **Group Styles Research and Class Presentation are 10% of the Final Grade:** (Read Group Styles Research and Class Presentation section).
5. **Listening Test is 10 % of Final Grade:** The class will be tested on identifying aurally a variety of styles from the Latin American repertoire studied in class.

### **Group Styles Research and Class Presentation:**

1. The class will be divided into Ten (10) presentations. Each student or group will be assigned to do a class presentation of 15 minutes max. On a Folkloric/Popular Cuban Music Style.
2. The student or group will provide a handout of min. 2/max. 4 pages long for each student in class based on the format found in the **Styles Research Handout Format** provided in the Modules section of this CANVAS page.
3. The use of audiovisual material is highly encouraged. (PowerPoint, CD Tracks, Youtube, etc.)
4. Only information that comes from scholarly sources will be admitted (Text Books, Biographies, Dissertations, Periodicals, Documentaries, CD/LP cover

reviews). **Wikipedia** is a **good starting point** for the search for information, but it is **not reliable scholarly documentation** and **will not be admitted as a bibliographic source**. A **minimum of 4/max. Of 10 sources** are required on the handout.

5. **Carousel 411** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of Willis Library (A.K.A College of Music Library) holds many text resources available to assist you with the task. These resources will only be used in the library. I intend to make them available to all the class members and familiarize everyone in class with all the resources accessible to them at our music library. Also, **meet your librarians**. They are there to assist you in making your quest for knowledge enjoyable.
6. A word of advice: **Rehearse your presentation and time it**. This will help you to manage your limited time and to focus on communicating the most essential features of the material you are presenting.

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#### SPOT Evaluations:

All class and ensemble members are encouraged to evaluate this course and its instructor at the end of the semester. Your opinion and views as students are extremely valuable to us faculty members. It helps us improve and become more effective in our mission to assist in your growth and education efficiently.

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#### Class Schedule:

##### WEEK 1

TUES. Clave: An Afro-Cuban Rhythmic Concept.

THUR. Clave: An Afro-Cuban Rhythmic Concept.

WEEK 2

TUES. Congas/Tumbadoras: Sounds, Hand Technique and Tumbao.

THUR. Congas/Tumbadoras

WEEK 3

TUES. Bongó: sounds, Technique, and Martillo

THUR. Bongó and Campana.

WEEK 4

TUES. Timbales: Sound, Technique, and Flow.

THUR. Timbales: Transitions

WEEK 5

TUES. The Cuban Percussion Trio in popular styles

THUR. The Cuban Percussion Trio continues.

WEEK 6

TUES. **Mid-Term Evaluation** (playing exam).

THUR. **Mid-Term Evaluation** (playing exam).

WEEK 7

TUES. Afro Cuban 6/8 Styles (Bembe, Abakua, Iyesa, and others) **(6/8 presentation)**

THUR. Afro Cuban 6/8 Styles (continues).

WEEK 8

TUES. The Rumba Complex: Yambú, Guaguancó and Colúmbia (**Rumba presentation**)

THUR. The Rumba Complex (continues).

WEEK 9

TUES. Intro to Afro Puerto Rican Styles (**Bomba presentation**)

THUR. Intro to Afro Puerto Rican Styles (continues).

WEEK 10

TUES. An Overview of Cuban Popular Styles (**Danzon, Son, presentation**).

THUR. An Overview of Cuban Popular Styles (**Mambo, Cha-Cha-Cha, presentation**).

WEEK 11

TUES. An Overview of Cuban Popular Styles (**Bolero, Songo presentation**)

THUR. An Overview of Cuban Popular Styles (open)

WEEK 12

TUES. Discussion: **What is Salsa?**

THUR. Discussion: **What is Salsa?** (Continues).

## WEEK 13

TUES. Review and Q&A session

THUR. **Listening Test.**

Finals Week: **Final Comprehensive Written Test.**

**During Class Time (either TUES. or THURS.)**

## **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](http://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/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## **ODA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations 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](http://disability.unt.edu) (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **Diversity and Belonging**

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity, and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff,



and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies, and use of university facilities.

### **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 2023**

See: [Fall 2023 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

### **Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2023**

See above

### **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 the 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 the 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. Coursework 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 whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. 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 issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](#)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

[Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu)

## **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-registration-guide>

## **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>

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

## **CARE TEAM**

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to students, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>