



MUJS 1370 – JAZZ FUNDAMENTALS II
(MUJS 5362 – GRADUATE REVIEW OF JAZZ THEORY)
SPRING 2020 | MU262 | M/W 10 - 10:50 am

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COURSE PHILOSOPHY/OBJECTIVES

The concept of “jazz improvisation” is very broad. An individual, as a soloist, must first know a tune or a form, then have enough melodic and harmonic materials prepared so that they can recall them in a seemingly spontaneous fashion, with the right tone, stylistic idioms and expressions in order for these materials to actually sound authentic. As if all that were not enough, the improvising soloist must also negotiate group dynamics, allowing the contributions of others to change their own vocabulary and musical behavior in real time. Learning this process from the top down (listening, transcribing and emulating) is essential to the success of the musician. In order to facilitate this process and develop without gaping holes of knowledge, we will study the fundamentals - how to spell chords, read changes and have a strong understanding of the building blocks of jazz vocabulary, with the ultimate goal of creating a lasting method by which students can continue to develop on their own, even after this course.

COURSE CONTENT/MATERIALS

There is no textbook required for this course, but students should be able to seek out recordings on their own through legal means.

Students should bring their instruments, a pencil and a book of manuscript paper to every class.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

GRADING: Your grade is determined by the following criteria.

- 72%: Recorded Assignments (8 Assignments at 9%)
- 13%: Dipper Mouth Blues Transcription and Application
- 15%: Final Review Exam

The final grade is determined by the following scale:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = below 60%.

Grades that are one point or less below a cutoff can be rounded up at the sole discretion of the instructor based on a student’s overall effort, disposition, and attendance both in class and in office hours. For example, 89.1 and 89.0 *can* be rounded at the instructor’s discretion, 88.9 *cannot*.

RECORDING ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student is required to submit their recorded assignments as **audio** recordings on Canvas. **Video submissions will not be graded.**

Assignments will be graded on the following criteria:

- 48%: All Keys (12 keys at 4% each)
- 20%: Tempo (1% per 5bpm up to 100bpm – ie. 100bpm = 20%, 85bpm = 17%, 40bpm = 8%)
Drummers Tempo grading is 1% per 3 bpm up to 60bpm
- 10%: Accuracy
- 5%: Play from Root to 7th to Root
- 5%: Swing Feel
- 6%: Announce your name and student ID at the beginning of the recording
- 6%: Announce the key/starting note before you play it (0.5% per key)

All assignments are submitted through **Canvas** by **9am** on the days in which they are due. This is a **firm deadline: no late work is accepted for any reason** except an excused absence. If you email the instructor to ask about submitting a late assignment, you will simply be referred to the policy here in the syllabus. Video or unclear audio recordings will not be graded.

Do not email assignments to the instructor, only use the Canvas platform.

DIPPER MOUTH BLUES TEST:

This will be an individual performance test during normal classroom times. Each student must sing their transcription along with Jimmy Dorsey's and Louis Armstrong's Solos on Dippermouth Blues. Additionally, they will scat their own solo along with the recording using the chords, scales and triads discussed in class. See link for correct version of Dippermouth Blues:

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/dippermouth-blues/1444141347?i=1444143837>

- 60%: Transcription Performance
- 20%: Chord Accuracy
- 10%: Intonation
- 10%: Swing/Feel

FINAL REVIEW EXAM:

The final review exam will be highly specific musical tasks identical and/or related to the concepts and language discussed in class. It is important to note that the exam measures your internalization of the skills discussed and practiced **in this course**, not your overall improvisational skill, nor your improvisational vocabulary acquired prior to this course.

Being a great player is not enough to pass the exam. Regular practice is essential for success on this exam; you should not procrastinate or “cram”.

Furthermore, completing the final review exam is considered to be an essential task for passing this course. The following grading policy should be understood very clearly, and by taking this course you are agreeing to this policy:

A score of 70% or above on the review exam is required in order for a student to pass this class, regardless of performance in other course assignments.

If a student fails to achieve a 70% or above on the final review exam, the student will be afforded one additional opportunity to resubmit weak portions of the final review exam recording before the end of finals week. If, on the last day of finals, any exam grade remains below 70%, that student will receive an “Incomplete (I)” for the class and must retake the final review exam in the following semester.

Receiving an “Incomplete (I)” in this course could prevent registration in subsequent courses.

In short, you cannot pass this class without passing the final review exam with a 70% or above.

ATTENDANCE:

Please note: Attendance is not directly factored into any of these grading criteria, but each unexcused absence **after the THIRD** will lower your **final grade** by 5%, regardless of performance in any of the above criteria. This is a generous attendance policy that allows you to miss approximately 10% of class meetings with no questions asked. After your third absence, the policy is strictly enforced. It should be noted that a lot of material is covered in each class and missing class often results in difficulty in catching up.

Excused absences are, of course, permitted with ample notice and reasonable cause. These absences do not count towards the three unexcused. Please email the instructor to clear these in advance, or as soon as possible after-the-fact in case of emergency. Please provide documentation/verification.

If you feel overwhelmed in any way, or if you are dealing with something that is causing you to miss a significant amount of class, the best thing to do is speak with the instructor as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester when grades are published.

COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Unit 1: CHORD OF MODES

Week 1:

Mon Jan 13 - **No Class**

Wed Jan 15 - Syllabus/Expectations and the 15 Scale Degrees

Week 2:

Mon Jan 20 - **No Class (Holiday)**

Wed Jan 22 – Major Mode Scales with Chord Association

Week 3: Assignment #1 (Due Jan 29)

Mon Jan 27 Major Mode Scales with Chord Association

Wed Jan 29 (Prof. Dizack Out) - Melodic Minor Mode Scales with Chord Association

Week 4: Assignment #2 (Due Feb 5)

Mon Feb 3 - Melodic Minor Mode Scales with Chord Association

Wed Feb 5 (Prof. Dizack Out) - Harmonic Minor Mode Scales with Chord Association

Week 5: Assignment #3 (Due Feb 12)

Mon Feb 10 - Harmonic Minor Mode Scales with Chord Association

Wed Feb 12 - Harmonic Major Mode Scales with Chord Association

Week 6: Assignment #4 (Due Feb 19)

Mon Feb 17 (Prof. Dizack Out) - Harmonic Major Mode Scales with Chord Association

Wed Feb 19 (Prof. Dizack Out) - Triads Major, Minor, Aug and Dim

Week 7: Assignment #5 (Due Feb 26)

Mon Feb 24 - Triads Major, Minor, Aug and Dim

Wed Feb 26 - 6 Major Triads over Dominant

Week 8:

Mon Mar 2 - 6 Major Triads over Dominant

Wed Mar 4 - Louis Armstrong - Dippermouth Blues and Week 9 Signups

SPRING BREAK

Unit 2: Advanced Uses of Bebop Language

Week 9:

Mon Mar 16 - **Individual Testing – Dippermouth Blues**

Wed Mar 18 - **Individual Testing – Dippermouth Blues**

Week 10:

Mon Mar 23 - Blues Scale and Lines in All Keys

Wed Mar 25 - Blues Lines in All Keys

Week 11: Assignment #6 (Due March 30)

Mon Mar 30 - Approach Tones and Arpeggios

Wed Apr 1 - Approach Tones and Arpeggios

Week 12: Assignment #7 (Due April 6)

Mon Apr 6 - Voicings Major and Minor

Wed Apr 8 - Voicings Half Diminished and Dominant

Week 13:

Mon Apr 13 - Voicings over iii-VI-ii-V-I's
Wed Apr 15 - Voicings over Autumn Leaves

Week 14: Assignment #8 (Due April 20)

Mon Apr 20 - Enclosures
Wed Apr 22 - Enclosures

Week 15:

Mon Apr 27 - Passing Tones and the Bebop Scale (Major and Minor)
Wed Apr 29 - Passing Tones and the Bebop Scale (Dominant)

FINALS REVIEW EXAM:

SUBMITTED RECORDING DUE SUNDAY MAY 3RD ON OR BEFORE 11:59PM

IMPORTANT: LATE EXAM SUBMISSIONS WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC INCOMPLETE FOR THE COURSE.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION**EMAIL USE:**

It is expected that you use your **UNT** email address for all correspondence related to your degree. Any university-related questions emailed to Prof. Meder from your personal email address, through Facebook or any other social media platform, or through SMS (text messaging) will not receive a response.

Furthermore, you must check your **UNT** email **DAILY**. All inquiries from Prof. Meder (or any other professor or administrator) should be responded to within 24 hours. For better or for worse, effective use of email is essential to your career as a professional musician. In the modern-day music business, timely responses are mandatory in order to be considered for many gigs and opportunities. Consider your use of email at UNT to be training for your professional career.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INCLUSIVITY:

All students are expected to contribute to an environment of inclusivity and mutual respect, in this course and in all department courses. Please consider how some words, phrases and actions that you feel are harmless and acceptable may actually be perceived by others as an attack on their very identity. Show proper respect for all of your peers and treat others how *they* would like to be treated.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND 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, 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.

LINK: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/integrity>

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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

LINK: Student Code of Conduct - <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.

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 Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

2018-2019 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

<http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=2120>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2018-2019

<https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2018-19/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

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 registered hours per term. 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 being doing so.

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.

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. Course work completed via the Blackboard/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.

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:

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>. For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741 | Myriam.Reynolds@unt.edu