# ****Advanced Jazz Improvisation – Drum Set (Fall 2025)****

MUJS 3360 / MUJS 5370
Meets T/Th 9:30–10:50 AM
**Location: MU292**
Professor: Quincy Davis
Email: Quincy.Davis@unt.edu

## ****Course Overview****

This course develops advanced jazz drumming skills through transcription, rhythmic exploration, and performance. Students will choose two drummers to study, culminating in two presentations where they analyze, present, and perform in the style of their chosen drummers. Weekly work emphasizes applying rhythmic concepts to standards, learning advanced tunes, and orchestrating horn/vocal solos on the drum set.

## ****Grading****

* Participation / Preparation – 30%
* Weekly Assignments – 30%
* Participation – 20%
* Midterm Presentation – 15%
* Final Presentation – 15%
* Midterm Exam – 10%
* Final Exam – 10%

## ****Weekly Schedule****

### ****Week 1 (8/19, 8/21) – Orientation / Dotted Quarters****

* **Tue 8/19:** Orientation, review audition charts & recordings. Students choose **two drummers** for semester projects (presentation + performance in style). Intro dotted quarter phrasing on Cherokee.
* **Thu 8/21:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Sing/play Cherokee melody.
	+ **Activity 2:** Apply dotted quarter phrasing.
	+ **Due:** Perform Cherokee with dotted quarter phrasing.

### ****Week 2 (8/26, 8/28) – Dotted Halves****

* **Tue 8/26:** Dotted half phrasing on Cherokee. Advanced tune: Humpty Dumpty. Solo: Learn Ella Fitzgerald – Can’t We Be Friends (singing & playing).
* **Thu 8/28:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Trade 4s on Cherokee using dotted halves.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Humpty Dumpty.
	+ **Due:** Ella Fitzgerald solo.

### ****Week 3 (9/2, 9/4) – Groupings: 5s (8th-based)****

* **Tue 9/2:** Introduce 5s. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Inner Urge. Solo: Learn Louis Armstrong – Can’t We Be Friends (singing & playing).
* **Thu 9/4:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Perform Cherokee with 5s.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Inner Urge.
	+ **Due:** 4 comping phrases from Drummer #1 on Inner Urge.

### ****Week 4 (9/9, 9/11) – Groupings: 7s (8th-based)****

* **Tue 9/9:** Introduce 7s. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Straight Street. Solo: Learn Lester Young – Lady Be Good (singing & playing).
* **Thu 9/11:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with 7s.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Straight Street.
	+ **Due Tue 9/16:** Lester Young solo.

### ****Week 5 (9/16, 9/18) – Triplet-based 5s****

* **Tue 9/16:** Introduce triplet-based 5s (Hoenig). Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Uranus (Walter Davis Jr.). Solo: Learn Hank Mobley – Dig Dis (singing & playing).
* **Thu 9/18:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with triplet 5s.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Uranus.
	+ **Due:** Hank Mobley solo.

### ****Week 6 (9/23, 9/25) – Triplet-based 7s****

* **Tue 9/23:** Introduce triplet-based 7s (Hoenig). Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum. Solo: Learn Benny Green – Wiggin’ (singing & playing).
* **Thu 9/25:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with triplet 7s.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum.
	+ **Due:** Benny Green solo.

### ****Week 7 (9/30, 10/2) – Consolidation / Midterm****

* **Tue 9/30:** Combine dotted values + 5s + 7s. Apply to Cherokee. Midterm Presentations: **Drummer #1** (first half).
* **Thu 10/2:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with layered groupings.
	+ Midterm Presentations: **Drummer #1** (second half).
	+ **Due:** Midterm presentation.

### ****Week 8 (10/7, 10/9) – Polyrhythms: 3 over 4****

* **Tue 10/7:** Intro 3 over 4. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Chick’s Tune. Solo: Learn Miles Davis – E.S.P. (singing & playing).
* **Thu 10/9:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with 3 over 4.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Chick’s Tune.
	+ **Due:** Miles ESP solo.

### ****Week 9 (10/14, 10/16) – Polyrhythms: 6 over 4****

* **Tue 10/14:** Intro 6 over 4. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: The Sorcerer (Herbie Hancock). Solo: Learn Gary Bartz – My Shining Hour (singing & playing).
* **Thu 10/16:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with 6 over 4.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform The Sorcerer.
	+ **Due:** Gary Bartz solo.

### ****Week 10 (10/21, 10/23) – Polyrhythms: 4 over 3****

* **Tue 10/21:** Intro 4 over 3. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Use of Light (Kurt Rosenwinkel). Solo: Learn Freddie Hubbard – Hub-Tones (singing & playing).
* **Thu 10/23:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee with 4 over 3.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Use of Light.
	+ **Due:** Freddie Hubbard solo.

### ****Week 11 (10/28, 10/30) – Metric Modulation: Dotted Quarter = Quarter****

* **Tue 10/28:** Intro modulation (dotted quarter = quarter). Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Intrepid Fox (Freddie Hubbard).
* **Thu 10/30:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee modulation (dotted quarter).
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Intrepid Fox.
	+ **Due:** Modulation solo.

### ****Week 12 (11/4, 11/6) – Metric Modulation: 5s****

* **Tue 11/4:** Use quintuplets as new pulse. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Peaceful Warrior (Aaron Parks).
* **Thu 11/6:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee modulation with 5s.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Peaceful Warrior.
	+ **Due:** Modulation solo (5s).

### ****Week 13 (11/11, 11/13) – Metric Modulation: 7s****

* **Tue 11/11:** Use septuplets as new pulse. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Hide and Seek (Joshua Redman). Solo: Learn John Coltrane – Impressions (singing & playing).
* **Thu 11/13:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee modulation with 7s.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Hide and Seek.
	+ **Due:** Coltrane solo.

### ****Week 14 (11/18, 11/20) – Metric Modulation: Integration****

* **Tue 11/18:** Integrate dotted, 5s, 7s modulations. Apply to Cherokee. Advanced tune: Number Two Express (Christian McBride).
* **Thu 11/20:**
	+ **Activity 1:** Cherokee integration performance.
	+ **Activity 2:** Perform Number Two Express.
	+ **Due:** Integration solo.

### ****Week 15 (11/25, 11/27) – No Class****

* **Thanksgiving break – no class.**

### ****Week 16 (12/2, 12/4) – Finals****

* **Tue 12/2:** Final Presentations
* **Thu 12/4:** Final Presentations
* **Final Due:** 10-min presentation on Drummer #2, advanced tune performance in style + rhythmic concept

# ****University Policies and Resources****

### ****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.

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.

See: Eagle Connect
LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

### ****ODA Statement****

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA).

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****

See: Registration Information
Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

### ****Academic Calendar, Spring 2025****

See: Spring 2025 Academic Calendar
Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

### ****Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress****

**Undergraduates:** Must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA and complete required credit hours. Music scholarships require 2.5 overall GPA and 3.0 in music courses.

**Graduates:** Must maintain 3.0 GPA (3.5 for music scholarships).

See: Financial Aid
LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

### ****Retention of Student Records****

All course records are retained at least one year after course completion. Coursework on Canvas is stored securely.

See: FERPA
Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

### ****Counseling and Testing****

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has counselors available.

See: Counseling and Testing
Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>

Mental Health Resources: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

### ****Add/Drop Policy****

Dropping below half-time enrollment may trigger loan repayment.

Drop Info: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

### ****Student Resources****

See: Student Resources
Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

### ****Care Team****

The Care Team provides support for students, staff, and faculty who may be at risk.

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