

# Songwriting Syllabus and Schedule Fall 2023

## Rosana Eckert, instructor



Katelyn Robinson, Teaching Assistant



Welcome everyone! We are so glad to have you in Songwriting this semester. Below is the syllabus and schedule, and it is also attached as a document. Be sure to keep it handy for reference.

**The purpose of this course is to:**

Develop skills related to the various components of songwriting (lyrics, chords, melody, form, etc.)

Practice a variety of methods for beginning and editing a song

Deepen skills in song analysis

Participate in group songwriting workshops with peers

Complete and present six original songs

**Attendance:** Due to the nature of the class, attendance is required. If you fall ill or have reason for an excused absence

(like a family emergency), text Rosana BEFORE class. 817-368-4422. More than 2 excused absences may result in your being dropped from the class. Unexcused absences or repeated tardiness will result in the lowering of the final grade.

More on attendance with regard to COVID-19: While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please let me know if you are feeling ill. Text me prior to being absent. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> Links to an external site.) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider.

While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

**Grading:**

Each song is worth 16.6% of your grade.

To get an A on a song, a recording of the “finished” version of the song must be shared with the class on presentation day, and a copy of the chart must be turned in on the day it was performed. The song must be in lead sheet format (including lyrics, if applicable) engraved in Finale or written in very neat manuscript. It must follow the assignment instructions and reflect the edits you incorporate into the final performance. (Remember, refer to published fake books for a proper lead sheet format. Please do not turn in a Word document of lyrics with some chords written above.)

### **Late assignment grading:**

Missed reveal day (recording not presented) = -50%

Late lead sheet:

1 day tardy = -5 points, 2 days = -10 points, 3 days = -15 points, 4 days = -20 points, 5 days = -25,

6+ days = half credit

Listen and analyze! Push your creativity! There is no such thing as writer's block. Narrow the tunnel, find some structure, make some decisions.

### **Workshops:**

On all workshop days, the class will split into two groups, meeting their assigned room. Group 1 meets in 287 with Rosana. Group 2 meets in 292 with Katelyn. On the second workshop day, the groups switch, with Group 1 meeting in 292 and Group 2 in 287. The groups will be different for each assignment.

Everyone must present something on workshop days. You will each be given approximately 7 minutes to present the song in progress and get quick feedback from your group. The more you have ready on a workshop day, the more your group has to comment on, but you are not expected to have a completed song at this point. Group feedback can be extremely helpful! Remember, the magic often happens in the editing process. Please write down whatever you plan to present at the workshop. It makes the feedback process happen more quickly and easily.

### **Song Presentations:**

On song presentation day, you will upload a lead sheet and recording to Canvas prior to class (melody, chords, lyrics if applicable). The recording of your song will be played in class while we all look at the leadsheet on the projector. The song demo can be as polished as a Logic production or as simple as a voice memo done on your phone in a practice room. You can self-accompany or collaborate with others. Utilize the talents of your fellow classmates!

## Semester Schedule – Fall 2023

- Aug 21 Syllabus, discussion, listening
- Aug 23 Analysis, discussion, listening - **write a song!** No parameters
- Aug 28 Workshop Day 1 – Song #1
- Aug 30 Workshop Day 2 - Song #1
- Sept 4 Labor Day - no class
- Sept 6 **Presentation of Song #1**
- Sept 11 Discussion and analysis: lyric concepts - **write a text** (present in prose, poetry, or lyric form)
- Sept 18 Workshop Day 1 – Song #2 (Lyric first)
- Sept 20 Workshop Day 2 – Song #2
- Sept 25 **Presentation of Song #2 (Lyric First)**
- Sept 27 Discussion and analysis: melody first – **begin with a motive**
- Oct 2 Workshop Day 1 – Song #3 (Melody first)
- Oct 4 Workshop Day 2 – Song #3
- Oct 9 **Presentation of Song #3**
- Oct 11 Discussion: Groove Making with special guest Michael League!
- Oct 16 Discussion: chords first and reharmonization techniques - **reharmonize the assigned short melody**
- Oct 18 **Present reharmonization of assigned melody, begin a song with a progression**
- Oct 23 Workshop Day 1 – Song #4 (Chords first)
- Oct 25 Workshop Day 2 – Song #4
- Oct 30 **Presentation of Song #4 (chords first)**
- Nov 1 Discussion: Collaboration/Copying the Masters – **collaborate!**
- Nov 6 Workshop Day 1 – Song #5 (Collaborations)
- Nov 7 **Songwriters Showcase at The Syndicate 9pm-11:30pm**
- Nov 8 Workshop Day 2 – Song #5
- Nov 13 **Presentation of Song #5 (Collaboration)**

Nov 15	Discussion: Restrictions assignment – <i>organize the components</i>
Nov 20	Fall Break - no class
Nov 22	Fall Break - no class
Nov 27	Workshop Day 1 – Song #6
Nov 29	Workshop Day 2 – Song #6
Dec 4	<b>Presentation of Song #6 – (Restrictions)</b>
Dec 6	Final Discussion: Copyright, resources

There is no final exam in this class! Go write more songs!

## 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 IntegrityLinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: [https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003Links to an external site.](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 ConductLinks to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conductLinks to an external site.>

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.eduLinks to an external site.](#) 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 ConnectLinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/Links to an external site.](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/Links to an external site.)

## 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: [ODALinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.eduLinks to an external site.](http://disability.unt.eduLinks to an external site.) (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.

See: [Diversity and Inclusion](#)Links to an external site.

Link: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>Links to an external site.

## Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety

at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>Links to an external site.

## Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)Links to an external site.

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>Links to an external site.

## Academic Calendar, Fall 2023

See: [Fall 2023 Academic Calendar](#)Links to an external site.

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>Links to an external site.

## 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 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 AidLinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>Links to an external site.

## 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 AidLinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>Links to an external site.

## **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: [FERPALinks to an external site.](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>Links to an external site.



## 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](#)Links to an external site.

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>Links to an external site..

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](#)Links to an external site.

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>Links to an external site..

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>Links to an external site.

## STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student ResourcesLinks to an external site.](#)

Link: [https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resourcesLinks to an external site.](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 student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care TeamLinks to an external site.](#)

Link: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-teamLinks to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)