

Songwriting Syllabus and Schedule

Rosana Eckert, instructor

Tyler Thomas, 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.

University of North Texas Songwriting MUJS 3920 and 5920

Class syllabus and schedule - Fall 2021

Instructor: Rosana Eckert

Office hours MWF 2pm, MU 348. Cell- 817-368-4422. Rosana.eckert@unt.edu

TF: Tyler Thomas. Cell – 940-206-9938. tylerthomas3@my.unt.edu

The purpose of this course is to:

Develop skills in the 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:

This class is being offered live for each session, with required masks and socially distanced seating.

If you would feel more comfortable attending via zoom, let it be known, and I will do my best to accommodate for every class.

Either way, 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 me 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/symptomstesting/symptoms.html>) 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 should 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 decided upon during evaluation. (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 and find some structure.

Workshops:

On all workshop days, the class will split into two groups, meeting their assigned room. Group 1 meets in 287 with Rosana (her office). Group 2 meets in 292 with Tyler. 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 15 minutes to present the song in progress and get 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.

Song Presentations:

On song presentation day, you will bring a lead sheet (melody, chords, lyrics if applicable, in Finale or neat manuscript) and a recording of your song will be played in class. Please upload this song to canvas prior to class. You can self-accompany or collaborate with others. Utilize the talents of your fellow classmates!

Semester Schedule – Fall 2021

Aug 23	Syllabus, discussion
Aug 25	Analysis, discussion – write a song! (no parameters)
Aug 30	Workshop Day 1 – Song #1
Sept 1	Workshop Day 2 – Song #1
Sept 6	Labor Day (No Class)
Sept 8	Presentation of Song #1
Sept 13	Discussion and analysis: lyrics
Sept 15	Present your lyric! (no music yet) Discussion: adding melody to a lyric
Sept 20	Workshop Day 1 – Song #2 (Lyrics first)
Sept 22	Workshop Day 2 – Song #2
Sept 27	Presentation of Song #2
Sept 29	Discussion and analysis: Melody first
Oct 4	Workshop Day 1 – Song #3 (melody first)
Oct 6	Workshop Day 2 – Song #3

Oct 11 Presentation of Song #3

Oct 13 Discussion: Chords first

Oct 18 Workshop Day 1 – Song #4 (Chords first)

Oct 20 Workshop Day 2 – Song #4

Oct 25 Presentation of Song #4

Oct 27 Discussion: Collaboration/Copying the Masters

Nov 1 Workshop Day 1 – Song #5 (Collaborations)

Nov 3 Workshop Day 2 – Song #5

Nov 8 Presentation of Song #5

Nov 10 Discussion: Restrictions assignment

Nov 15 Workshop Day 1 – Song #6

Nov 17 Workshop Day 2 – Song #6

Nov 22 Presentation of Song #6 – (Restrictions)

Nov 24 Happy Thanksgiving - no class

Nov 29 Discussion: Reharmonization and Production

Dec 1 Discussion: Copyright

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

Office of Disability Accommodation

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 website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Financial Aid 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. 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. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for 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.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (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. 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. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for 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. Academic Integrity
Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course.

Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

Student Behavior in the Classroom

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: www.unt.edu/csrr.

HEARING PROTECTION

The use of hearing protection (ear plugs) is strongly recommended. The UNT Speech and Hearing clinic will provide a hearing test to every enrolled UNT student for a flat fee of \$25. In addition, "musician's ear plugs" can be purchased at the clinic for \$175. The College of Music provides foam ear plugs at no charge; students can pick these up from the repair shop, MA 106.