

# MUJS 5780 Jazz Styles & Analysis

## Syllabus

Fall 2018

### When and Where

MWF 10-10:50 a.m. in Music 287

### Course redesign

This course has been *completely redesigned* for this semester based partly on feedback from students in Fall 2017 and partly on my interest in trying new publications and a new course design.

### Epigraph

When students learn that engineering is about making things and taking them apart, they see it's a creative subject. --James Dyson

<http://www.wired.com/design/2012/11/mf-james-dyson/>

When students learn that musical analysis is about listening deeply to music and taking it apart, they see that it's a creative subject that helps them when they create their own music. *Analysis can be one means of finding your own artistic voice.* --this class

### Catalog description

The stylistic elements of the various eras of jazz history; theoretical analysis of significant musical qualities of influential musicians of the different periods of jazz.

### Instructor

John Murphy, Ph.D. Office: 266 Email: john.murphy@unt.edu

Appointments: If you need to make an appointment, send several times you can meet by email (remember to use UNT email) and I will reply to confirm.

### Who may take this class

This class is required for master's students in Jazz Studies. If you are taking this as part of a related field for a master's or doctoral degree, please see me on or before the first day of class to tell me about your background in jazz. You must pass a performance audition to do a related field in jazz studies. Even if you are doing this as an elective, not as part of a related field, and therefore are not required to pass a performance audition, you must demonstrate adequate preparation.

### Course Learning Outcomes main goal: To understand jazz styles analytically

1. Distinguish analysis, defined as arguing for a way to hear a musical performance, from the sort of theory taught in improvisation classes (such as chord-scale theory) and from labeling devices in a solo transcription

2. Become more able to listen to music analytically in real time based on the work we do with recordings
3. Apply analytical insights to jazz performance, scholarship, and pedagogy
4. Recognize the interdisciplinary nature of musical analysis (for example, it draws on the methods of music theory and ethnomusicology)
5. Read, think critically about, discuss, and write in response to significant publications in the literature on jazz analysis
6. Make accurate transcriptions of recorded musical performances
7. Acquire a toolkit of analytical methods and use them to make your own analytical anthology
8. Write clear analytical prose to accompany your transcriptions and analyses
9. Present your work in documents that meet professional standards

### Required text

*Jazz Theory* by Dariusz Terefenko. Available in the bookstore.

Companion website: <http://routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781138235106/>

Once you get your book, create an account on the companion website and download the workbook for each chapter.

**Calendar** A class-by-class calendar will be on Canvas.

**Unit 1 5%** Current state of jazz analysis. Study two articles that illustrate how jazz analysis has progressed to learn what skills are needed to do jazz analysis well (Schuller 1958, Givan 2014). Graded work: essay assignment done outside of class.

### Unit 2 40% Jazz Theory and Analysis

Using the assigned textbook, *Jazz Theory* by Dariusz Terefenko, we will do a structured review of jazz theory (Parts I and II, chapters 1-18). Then we will study advanced topics (ch. 19 from Part II and all of Part III, chapters 20-27) that will support your work as performers and teachers and prepare you to work with the academic articles and do your own analysis projects. We will also read and discuss selected journal articles that demonstrate analytical techniques. This work will occupy most of our class meetings.

Graded work: in-class tests, assignments done outside of class.

### Unit 4 45% Jazz Styles

This part of the graded work is devoted to a semester-long project: an analytical anthology. For each of the periods below, you'll choose recorded performances on your principal instrument to transcribe and analyze. For each anthology item, you'll choose an aspect of the piece and use it to create something of your own, which could be part of a tune or an idea for an approach to the improvised line. We'll

discuss and agree on a reasonable number of examples in each category, and whether students should be assigned one or more transcriptions of instruments other than their principal instrument. We can also modify the list of periods. The goal of this assignment is the same as the goal of the course: *to understand jazz styles analytically*. This assignment will also help you prepare for the comprehensive exam.

This work will be done outside of class. We will have some class meetings that are designed to help you with this work.

Early jazz (before 1930)

Swing Era (1930-1945)

Modern jazz/bebop (1945-1960)

Post-bop (modern jazz that's not avant-garde, 1960-1990)

Avant-garde (1960-present)

Contemporary (1990-present)

### **Final exam 10%**

The final exam covers analytical concepts, methods, and publications. It's designed to help you synthesize what you've learned this semester and to prepare for the comprehensive exam. We'll review for it on Monday and Wednesday of week 15. The final exam will be given on Sat., Dec. 8, 2018, from 8-10 a.m.

### **Grading scale**

The grading scale is A=89.5-100; B=79.5-89.4; C=69.5-79.4; D=59.5-69.4; F=59.4 and below.

The final point total is rounded to one place to determine the final grade. For example: 89.4 is a B; 89.5 is an A. There is no extra credit. I grade each assignment and total the points at the end. I don't make adjustments after an assignment has been graded unless there's an error in grading. I don't assign or accept extra credit assignments. Grades of incomplete are only considered in the event of a serious issue that prevents the completion of the work. An incomplete is not an option when the only reason is because a student fell behind in the work. The grade of incomplete can only be assigned if the grade on work done up to that point is passing.

### **Disabilities**

Students with disabilities that affect their work in this class are invited to speak with me privately. If you expect to have an accommodation made, you must give me the accommodation letter from UNT's Office of Disability Accommodation before any graded work is due. If you are finding it difficult to meet this deadline, please communicate with me privately.

## Discussion

An important part of the university experience is formulating an argument, a comment, or a question and putting it out there for other people to respond to. I expect every student to contribute to the discussion. When a reading is assigned as the content of a class meeting, we will all be prepared to discuss the reading at that class. I will plan the class with the assumption that you have read the assigned material and you are ready to discuss and apply the concepts in it. I won't summarize each reading for the benefit of those who didn't read it before class. I will call on people to talk about the ideas in the article.

## Your degree

You're earning a degree in *jazz studies*, not only *jazz performance*. Your work is to *improve your artistry* and to become a *scholar of your art form*. If you approach these tasks with the idea that they can support each other, you'll do well. If you think the academic work is a waste of time, why did you apply for a master's program?

## Comprehensive exam

Jazz Studies majors and related-field students will have questions based on this class at your comprehensive exam. You'll be expected to demonstrate your knowledge of jazz analysis and cite examples of authors, publications, terminology, and recorded performances that have been analyzed in the publications we study and in your analytical anthology. You must keep the materials from this class that you will need to review for the exam.

## Attendance policy

We will follow the UNT attendance policy. Article 7 says this: "Any instructor who so informs students in writing about the necessity of class attendance may request of the Registrar that a student be dropped from the course with a grade of WF upon the accumulation of the stated number of absences." I affirm the necessity of class attendance. I will excuse absences for up to four university-sponsored activities and significant professional activities, both of which must be documented and cleared in advance. If you expect to have more than four excused absences, please meet with me in advance of the absences. By significant I mean something like traveling to another city for an audition. Missing class because you had a late gig the night before and overslept is not an excused absence. Excused absences will be given for College of Music activities for which an excused absence form has been filed. Excused absences for illness or other serious reason must be documented by the Dean of Students ([deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu)). For ordinary illness that does not require medical care, use one of your three allowed unexcused absences. Other kinds of excused absence request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you have more than three unexcused absences, I reserve the right to drop you from the class with a grade of WF, which will put you in Academic Probation status with the Toulouse Graduate School.

## Expectations

I expect you to:

- take responsibility for your learning in this class
- attend every class, arrive on time, and stay the entire time
- contribute to class discussion
- communicate effectively (This includes email. You must use your EagleConnect email to communicate about UNT-related matters)
- put in the work time outside of class that is necessary for you to reach your maximum potential
- understand and the syllabus policies, especially the attendance policy
- be alert and engaged in class (and let me know if there are things about the class or your life that are making that difficult)
- let me know if there are any errors in your grade or attendance information
- let me know if there something I can do to help you do your best work *while the class is going on*, when I can make changes in what we do in class if changes are warranted

You can expect me to:

- treat every student with respect and the expectation that every student is capable of doing well in this class
- be prepared for class and demonstrate the scholarly methods we are studying
- communicate my interest in this subject and in learning in general
- allow time for questions and discussion in class
- limit discussion if necessary so that we can get things done
- begin and end class on time
- be available outside of class in the office and by email
- have realistic expectations about the workload
- be willing to modify what we do in class in order to help you learn better (if that is going to happen, you need to tell me what you think needs to be changed while the class is happening)
- speak with students who are often late
- apply the syllabus policies fairly to all students

## Academic integrity

We will follow UNT's policy on academic integrity, which establishes consequences for cheating and plagiarism. If I determine that academic dishonesty has occurred, I will ask the student for a private meeting. If the case warrants it, I will file a report with the academic integrity office for investigation. Possible consequences can include a zero on the assignment with no chance to resubmit; an F for the course; or temporary or permanent expulsion from the degree program. Every suspected instance will be investigated, and every confirmed instance will be reported.

## Evaluation

The official UNT evaluation will be done near the end of the class. If you have comments or suggestions for improving the course, please share them with me any time, in any way you prefer.

## File naming

Because I accept some assignments electronically, I receive many files from students. When 20 students send files labeled essay1.docx, I have to spend time renaming the files to include the students' names. I require that students use these naming conventions to name the files for your assignments. Before I will grade your electronically-submitted assignment, the file name must have these elements, all in lowercase, in this order:

- your last name
- hyphen
- 5780
- one-word description of the assignment
- filetype suffix (examples: .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .txt)

Example: lastname-5780-unit1essay2.pdf

If the assignment results in more than one file, you must submit all of the files in one zip archive. The zip archive and each file within it must be named according to this naming convention.

You may benefit from using naming conventions for the files on your computer. It makes finding and organizing files easier. Avoid including spaces in filenames. When you use a file with spaces in the filename on different operating systems, the space comes out as %20, which makes the filename harder to read.

## If classes are canceled

If UNT classes are canceled, we will communicate using Canvas and stay on schedule.

## UNT Ally

I participated in UNT Ally training in order to learn more about creating an environment for learning in my classes that is characterized by mutual respect. I got a certificate in a frame that's in my office, but unless you visit my office and happen to see it, you wouldn't know about it. That's why I put this note in the syllabus. From the past version of the UNT Ally website: "Ally Training educates and trains students, staff and faculty to create a safe zone for GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) people at UNT. You don't have to be GLBT/LGBT to go through training. Ally training is for anyone who's interested. The goal is to achieve a culture where any person can study and/or work in an environment free of discrimination and harassment."

<https://edo.unt.edu/history-ally-training-unt>

I am also an ally of students who are living with depression or other psychological conditions and students on the autism spectrum. We learn better as a group when we are aware of and have respect for the different ways we perceive and think about music.

### **Changes**

All course policies and the calendar are subject to change with notice.

### **Information required by UNT**

#### **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: <https://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: <https://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

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