MUCM 3550/5550
Small Group Jazz Forum

Professors: Pat Coil - Brad Leali
Office: MU #272
Office Hours: T/W/TH 10:00-10:50am
Office Phone: 940.565.2229
Email: pat.coil@unt.edu

Group Coaches: Professor Coil - Professor Leali - Sergio Pamies - TF
Performance: M/W 4:00-4:50pm MU#282-Kenton Hall
Group Coaching: M/W 4:00-4:50pm MU#263-Lab Band East / MU#292-The Small Group Room
Group Rehearsals: As scheduled

Prerequisite: Enrollment and successful completion of MUJS 2370 *
Prerequisite: Group leaders must have successfully completed ICE/GIEE (Improv Exam)

* Bass Players & Drummers (only):
- May participate in two small groups for Jazz Forum.
- Are exempted from the ICE exam requirement with permission from Professor Soph & Professor Seaton.

Please Note: Students not enrolled in this course cannot participate.

Course Description and Outline:

MUCM 3550/5550 is an advanced placement performance course. Small groups explore a wide variety of styles. Groups are encouraged to research and perform repertoire from historic jazz groups and composers, and to become familiar with free jazz concepts, fusion, funk and blues styles. Groups may compose original music. Each group records and mixes their own project during spring semester. Students and/or groups participating for the first or second time receive more direction throughout the semester.

Fall Semester: Groups rehearse weekly and are required to perform during our Small Group Jazz Forum as well another venue on or off campus approved by the professors. Two performances are required, however; groups may perform outside of our Forum as often as they are able. One or more visiting guest artists spend several days on campus where they meet with each of our small groups for coaching sessions, and also perform in concert.

Spring Semester: In addition to their weekly rehearsals and required performances, each group will record and mix a CD project during our scheduled recording sessions. Small groups are also featured on the UNT Showcase Stage at the Annual Denton Arts & Jazz Festival.

Week One ~ ‘Organizational Week’ ~ A mandatory meeting will be held in Kenton Hall at 4PM on our first class day. Groups and rehearsal times are finalized, and groups begin rehearsals. Rehearsal, performance and coaching schedules will be posted no later than Friday of week one.

Week Two ~ Group coaching begins on Monday and group performances begin on Monday when possible.

Check the MU#292 bulletin board frequently for updates!
Course Goals:

To effectively guide students in the process of learning, understanding and becoming comfortable with the technical and emotional aspects of group performance, while further developing the confidence and ability to also speak musically as an individual. Additionally, learning to really listen to other performers enhances a musicians creativity. To that end, cell phones, computers and electronic devices will be turned off.

The ultimate goal is for students to expand and improve, and to experience the joy of playing, performing, improvising, listening, and effectively communicating with their fellow musicians and the listener.

Attendance Policy:

As a participant in this course, you are making a commitment to yourself, your group coaches, and fellow musicians. All students are expected to be prepared, and will be required to attend all of their scheduled group rehearsals, coaching sessions and performances. Additionally, students are required to attend each Forum when not rehearsing in a group coaching session.

* Attendance will be taken by submitting your student ID into the Forum attendance box. Your absence will be recorded if you are not present when the TA removes the box and begins registering attendance.

'Excused absences' are permitted with approval by the professor. Either the student or student’s family must contact the professor via email, phone, or in person as follows:

- In the case of accident, illness or family emergency – within 48 hours after the absence.
- In the case of a known absence, permission may be granted one week or more prior to the absence.

Submitting the ID of an absent student is NOT permitted and will result in lowering the student’s final grade by one letter. A second offense will result in an automatic ‘F’in the course.

'Unexcused absences' are NOT permitted and will result in lowering the student’s final grade by one letter. A second offense will result in an automatic ‘F’in the course.

Please Note: Reliability is an asset as well as a measure of professionalism. If you are viewed as unreliable; contractors, producers, employers, and your fellow musicians will not be willing to hire you, or refer you to others. This is avoidable by demonstrating responsibility and timely communication.

Grading:

✓ Group Performance Evaluation: 50% of grade
✓ Individual Performance Evaluation: 35% of grade
✓ Leader Report / Effort & Professionalism: 15% of grade

Final Grade: A=100-90%  B=89-80%  C=79-70%  D=69-60%  F=59-0%

SUCCEED at UNT!

UNT endeavors to offer you an excellent education and provide you with a supportive, creative environment. As a UNT faculty member, I am committed to helping you succeed as a student, and to help you further your musical goals. Here is how to succeed at UNT:  Show up. Ask questions. Find support. Seek advice. Practice. Be prepared. Get involved. Focus. (success.unt.edu)
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 course.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the following consequences:

- A student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their functional and academic status.
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For additional information:
- Office of Disability Accommodation - http://www.unt.edu/oda
- Phone: 940.565.4323

Code of Conduct

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline provides penalties for misconduct by students, including academic dishonesty (cheating/plagiarism.) If you engage in academic dishonesty related to this class, you will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment and a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action. Please refer to https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct for more information.

Fall Semester Add/Drop Period

Information about add/drop dates for the Fall Semester:
http://www.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/fall/withdraw.html

General Academic Schedule

http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/fall/calendar.html

Final Exam Schedule

The final exam schedule is linked below:
http://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.

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Undergraduate: http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements

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.

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Please visit http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It is recommended that you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course or changing your course schedule.
**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](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](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

**Attendance Policy**
To be determined by the instructor-of-record.