

Instructor: John Murphy, Ph.D.

Office: 284 (Jazz Studies Office), 266 (by appointment)      Email: john.murphy@unt.edu

Office hours and how to find me: I am at work 8-5 most days. My primary work space is in the Jazz Studies Office, 284. Sometimes I schedule meetings in 266. For quick meetings at times other than the 8 a.m. hour, class meeting times, or the noon hour, you can check in the Jazz Studies office to see if I am available. 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.

“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/>

### **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.” If you are taking this as part of a related field for a master's or doctoral degree, please see me right away to tell me about your background in jazz. You must pass a performance audition to do a related field in jazz studies.

### **Learning goals**

improve your ability to listen to music analytically

understand how the analysis of music can serve the needs of jazz performers, scholars, and educators

understand the interdisciplinary nature of musical analysis

make accurate transcriptions of recorded musical performances

understand significant publications in the literature on jazz analysis

write clear analytical prose to accompany your transcriptions and analyses

present your work in documents that meet professional standards

### **Calendar**

#### **Week 1 Unit 1**

8/28 Introduction, syllabus, Williams article

8/30 Non-graded quiz and other activities to measure theory knowledge and aural skills

#### **Week 2**

9/2 UNT closed for Labor Day

9/4, 9/6 Williams article; review of theory and aural skills

#### **Week 3**

9/9, 9/11, 9/13 Overview articles on jazz analysis; analysis of a standard

#### **Week 4**

9/16 Analysis of a solo

9/18 Analysis of a solo

9/20 Analysis of a solo

Week 5

9/23, 9/25, 9/27 Analysis of interaction

Week 6

9/30, 10/2 Analysis of a large ensemble work

10/4 Technology for analysis

Week 7 **Unit 2**

10/7, 10/9, 10/11 Harker on Armstrong

Week 8

10/14, 10/16, 10/18 Harker on Armstrong; Waters on Davis Quintet

Week 9

10/21, 10/23, 10/25 Waters on Davis Quintet

Week 10

10/28, 10/30, 11/1 Third analytical topic, to be announced

Week 11

11/4, 11/6, 11/8 Third analytical topic; choosing and developing your project topic

Week 12 **Unit 3**

11/11, 11/13, 11/15 class topics based on your projects

Week 13

11/18, 11/20, 11/22 class topics based on your projects

Week 14

11/25, 11/27 class topics based on your projects

11/29 UNT closed for fall break

Week 15

12/2, 12/4 review for final

12/6 No class: University reading day

**Final Exam** Monday, Dec. 9, 2013 from 8-10 a.m. Changed from our date in the final exam schedule with notice and student vote and with permission from Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

**Unit 1 40% Survey of jazz analysis** weeks 1-6

Study a recent article to find out what skills an author needs in order to write it (Katherine Williams on Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue). Review of jazz theory and aural skills. Survey of jazz analysis (publications, analysis of a standard, a solo, interaction in a solo, and a large ensemble piece, pedagogical labels). Technology for transcription and analysis.

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

**Unit 2 20% Study three analyses in more depth** weeks 7-11

Selected chapters from Brian Harker's book on Louis Armstrong, Keith Waters's book on the second Miles Davis Quintet, and one more to be selected later.

Harker, Brian. 2011. *Louis Armstrong's Hot Five and Hot Seven Recordings*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Waters, Keith. 2011. *The Studio Recordings of the Miles Davis Quintet, 1965-68*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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

### **Unit 3 30% Analysis Project** weeks 12-14

Your analysis project on music that you choose in collaboration with me. Topic statement and sources 5%; first draft 15%; second draft 10%. Class meetings will focus on topics related to your projects in progress, including brief presentations by students.

**Final exam 10%** The final exam covers units one and two. We'll review for it on Monday and Wednesday of week 15.

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.

### **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 within the first two weeks of the semester. It must be submitted before any graded work is due.

### **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 either in class or on Blackboard. When a reading is given 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.

### **Creativity**

Artistic representations of your analytical findings are welcome. This can include handwritten notation (which must be legible and beautiful), Finale scores with lots of text comments or notation in color, Lilypond notation (lots of work to create, but higher quality than Finale), graphic representations other than staff notation, spectral analyses of timbre, video animation, and whatever else you can imagine provided that it serves a research purpose.

### **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 to be able to cite examples of authors, publications, terminology, and recorded performances that have been analyzed in the publications we study.

### **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 university-sponsored activities and significant professional activities, both of which must be documented and cleared in advance. 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. 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. 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, which must be documented by the Dean of Students ([deanofstudents.unt.edu](mailto: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.

### **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

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 passion for this subject and for 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  
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.

### **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 give them to me any time.

### **Recording class**

You may record class under the following conditions: you ask permission in advance; it's for your own use only during the semester; it is never put on the web or shared in any form.

### **File naming**

Because I accept 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 (for example, for unit 1 essay 2: u1essay2); filetype suffix (examples: .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .txt). Example: last-5780-u1essay2.pdf. If the assignment results in more than one file, you must submit all of the files in one zip archive. The zip archive 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 use Blackboard and stay on schedule. I will put class content on the website and we'll use the Discussion to have class online.

### **From the registrar**

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 [financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements](http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements) or 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.

### **UNT Ally**

I participated in UNT Ally training in Fall 2010 in order to affirm my commitment to creating an environment of mutual respect in my classes. Here's the description from 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."

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