Course Content:
The UNT Symphony Orchestra is a laboratory course designed for the development of the professional performer and the professional educator. Through this course the student will experience new repertoire, improve musicianship, and learn ensemble discipline in a collaborative setting. The goal of this organization, in rehearsal and performance, is to achieve the highest degree possible of learning and performance. It is the responsibility of the conductor and the performers to be prepared for each rehearsal. It is only through careful preparation that the goals of this organization can be accomplished.

Course Purpose:
This course partially fulfills the ensemble requirement for degree programs within the College of Music.

Expected Outcomes:
1. Student will have mastered a variety of ensemble techniques leading to an ability to perform at a professional level in the orchestral setting.
2. Student will learn how to listen and respond in an ensemble setting with regard to a number of musical issues such as balance, color, articulation, style, intonation, intensity, etc.
3. Student will have gained insight into the physical and mental technique and discipline necessary to continue improving musical technique and expression over time.
4. Student will have gained knowledge of the orchestral repertoire regularly performed in this ensemble and should have experienced a balanced cross section of that repertoire.
5. Student will have gained experience, musical maturity and comfort in a live performance setting.
6. Student should recognize the relationship between the theory and history of music and the performance thereof.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Outcomes:
Grades are assessed as follows: 50% Part preparation tests, 50% instructor’s assessment of overall performance, improvement as ensemble performer, etc.
In addition, one letter grade reduction is applied for each unexcused absence. Arriving at rehearsal late two times (unexcused) equals one unexcused absence and will result in a grade deduction of one letter grade.
Missing, or being late to, a performance for any reason other than serious illness (or pre-arranged excused absence) triggers an automatic failing grade in the course. Serious illness (the student) or family emergencies are the only reasons for granting an excused absence from a performance.

Tuning:
• Four A’s:
  (1) Brass, (2) Woodwinds, (3) Low Strings, (4) High Strings.
  [Violas, watch principal to see with which group you should tune.]
• Tune only; no scales, arpeggios, excerpts, etc.
• Tune at "piano" to "mezzo-piano".
• Tune only with your group. The 4th A is not a tutti A, it is for high strings only.
  When your group is finished tuning, please do not play again until the downbeat.
• Please do not talk during the tuning process.
• These principles of disciplined tuning apply equally to rehearsals and concerts.
Course Requirements:
Student musicians are expected to come to each rehearsal physically prepared to play at the published start of class with their individual music prepared. Students should plan on arriving early in order to facilitate this.

PREPARATION FOR REHEARSAL.
An orchestra rehearsal is a period for work on the interpretation of the music and the development of the ensemble. It is not any individual’s personal practice time. Student musicians are expected to arrive at every rehearsal (including sectionals) thoroughly prepared on the repertoire for that rehearsal. Thorough preparation for rehearsal includes the following:

1. Complete, individual ability to perform every note, dynamic, articulation, (and bowing) at a reasonable performance tempo.
2. General overall knowledge of the sound and content of the work suitable to understand one’s place in the whole. (Those unfamiliar with a particular work will want to consult a score and/or listen to a recording to achieve this.)

These preparation requirements apply to all UNT Symphony rehearsals and performances. This requirement is not limited to symphonic concerts, but also includes opera, gala, choral performances, recordings, and all other UNT Symphony Orchestra projects or assignments, both on and off campus. Sight-reading and/or insufficient preparation for rehearsal are unacceptable and will not be tolerated and are sufficient cause for a reduced grade.

Rehearsal Times and Locations:
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 2:15 p.m. – 4:05 p.m. Winspear Hall (unless otherwise posted)

Music:
Every musician will be assigned a folder (strings: original “performance” folder outside, practice copies inside) and will be responsible financially for both the folder and its contents. After a folder is distributed it is the sole responsibility of the musician. The librarian will not pick up folders after rehearsal or re-distribute them before rehearsal.

Outside strings that must miss a rehearsal for any reason are responsible to be certain that their folder (performance folder) is at rehearsal for use by their stand partner. Failure by the outside player missing rehearsal (even excused) to have the “performance” folder at rehearsal will result in a lowered grade.

When an outside player is missing at rehearsal (for any reason) the Orchestra Studies Artistic Assistant TA [AATA] will check to be certain that the outside folder on the stand. If the inside player has been forced to use the inside part for rehearsal the AATA will so note in the roster, possibly resulting in a lowered grade for the outside player. If the outside player has missed rehearsal for unexpected reasons (sudden illness, etc.), and it has been, therefore, impossible to provide the performance folder for rehearsal, that student should contact the AATA as soon as possible after the incident to explain the details. Even when the two parts are identical (i.e., both are copies), the folder issued to the outside player is the performance folder and is the only one to be used on the stand in rehearsals and performances.

Fees will be assessed for music that is lost or damaged due to excessive marking or mishandling. A grade of “incomplete” will be registered for any student whose music or folder is damaged or not returned.

Concert Dress:
The purpose of a dress code is to provide a professional atmosphere for our orchestra members and to present a professional and respectable image to our faculty, patrons, and community.

MEN:  Black Tuxedo
       Black Bow Tie
       Black Cummerbund or Tuxedo Vest
       White Tuxedo Shirt
       Black Socks – plain, no patterns
       Black Dress Shoes – polished
Contracts signed for professional work before the beginning of the academic year must be approved.

The Orchestral Studies Department recognizes the importance of participation by students in community and regional orchestras, the primary responsibility of the student, while enrolled in the Symphony Orchestra, remains with the College of Music’s Symphony Orchestra. Therefore, any absence because of rehearsal or performance in outside ensembles must be approved by the DOs in order to be excused. An absences request form must be completed and submitted at least two weeks prior to the anticipated absence. Any musician (other than section strings) receiving permission for an excused absence (for any reason) is responsible for securing an appropriate, prepared substitute for the rehearsal. Students should never accept an engagement or make other commitments in conflict with orchestra activities before securing an approved absence in writing. Contracts signed for professional work before the beginning of the academic year do not automatically demand an approved absence and are subject to the same constraints and criteria as any other request.
Attendance and Grading Policy (cont’d)

• Excused absences, even via the proper approval process, are limited in the following ways:
  (1) A maximum of two excused absences per concert cycle are permitted. These two potential excused absences are reduced by any illness or other absences. (e.g., if a student requires one illness absence they may not also take two unexcused absences in that cycle, only one.
  (2) No more than six absences (combination of all factors, excused, illness, recital, etc.) are allowed in any given semester.

• Recitals. Students are free to request an excused absence from rehearsal when their recital occurs after a symphony rehearsal on the same day. However, such requests are subject to the same conditions as other requests: they must be submitted in writing in a timely manner and are subject to the same possibility of denial as all other requests when not presented properly and/or too many other excused absences have already been granted for the same rehearsal.

In order to keep all rehearsals productive for all students, limitations are placed on the number of students that will be allowed excused absences on the same day; this applies to the orchestra overall and to any given section. When the DOS determines that the number of excused absences approved (on any given day) have reached the maximum that still allows for productive rehearsal, then all future requests (regardless of timing or reason, except for emergencies) will be denied, and students submitting such requests will be expected to attend that rehearsal as usual.

• Electronic device policy. Except for emergency situations, NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES such as phones, pagers, etc., are to be TOUCHED, used, or consulted in any way during a rehearsal or performance. Violation of this policy, IN ANY WAY, NO MATTER HOW MINOR, can and WILL result in immediate dismissal from the ensemble and failure of the course.

• The professional habit of arriving early for rehearsal is expected of every musician. At the very minimum, rehearsals must begin on time with everyone present. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. Anyone not present when attendance is taken will be considered tardy or, depending upon later arrival, absent and unexcused. If a student arrives late it is the responsibility of the student to see the Personnel Manager TA at break or after rehearsal to make certain that the Personnel Manager TA has changed “absent” to “late” when the student arrived. The Personnel Manager TA will make every effort to make such changes if a student arrives late, but it is the student’s responsibility to make certain that their arrival was noted. Changes to the attendance roster cannot be made retroactively during or after the grading process.

• Playing injuries and other illnesses not requiring bed rest. If a student has a playing injury requiring rest from that day’s rehearsal, or if a student has an illness that will make playing impossible but does not require bed rest or absence from classes generally, the student is required to attend rehearsal as usual. In such circumstances the student may sit either in the orchestra or in the first several rows of the “house”, having their part (or a practice part) in their hands, following rehearsal carefully and marking all issues discussed during rehearsal as usual. In this circumstance, no other work is to be done during this time, and the electronic device policy still fully applies.

• All absences due to illness (not pre-arranged/pre-excused) will require a supporting document in order for that absence to be “excused”. For the absence to be excused, students must submit one of the two following documents to the personnel manager TA at the earliest possible time following the illness. [This document must be turned in not later than the beginning of the next rehearsal attended by that student.] Documents: (1) A signed, dated note from the physician or clinic visited by the student for that illness. (2) A completed and signed “Illness absence” form found on the UNT Orchestral Studies Website (https://orchestra.music.unt.edu) under Student Information. This online form must be completely filled out and signed by the student. The “illness absence” form specifies that the student was too ill or otherwise indisposed to execute his/her regular schedule on that day, and did not attend any classes, rehearsals, lessons, coachings, etc., on that day. Regarding turning in and signing the “illness absence” form, students are advised to read the “Academic Integrity” section below. These policies apply equally to ALL STUDENTS, including those students participating in major ensembles to satisfy scholarship or other non-curricular requirements.

Part preparation tests:

Part preparation tests due dates can be found on the rehearsal schedule [pages 5-6].

A list of the required excerpts will be posted approximately 72 hours before the due date/time. By no later than the due date/time, selected students must deliver a video recording of their performance of the excerpts to the personnel manager TA, by sending a link to the posted video (see personnel manager’s email address on page 1). This is a required activity, as with a test in any other course, and cannot be turned in late or overlooked. See “Methods for Assessing Outcomes” for more details on the overall grading value of part preparation tests.

Part test videos must be delivered via link to youtube. No other format is acceptable.
Split orchestras:
Each Fall semester the Symphony Orchestra rehearses and performs during a portion of the semester divided into two parts, opera orchestra and chamber orchestra. Personnel specifics for these split orchestras are posted in MPAC and on the Orchestral Studies board in MU. Students can understand their exact rehearsal and performance responsibilities by consulting, first, these lists and, second, the schedule on page 6 of the syllabus. Once split orchestra assignments are made they are considered to be final. If, however, a student wishes to request to be moved from one portion of the orchestra to the other, this may be considered under the following circumstances. (1) The change is being requested in order to make possible for the student a particular performance opportunity, or to remove time constraint obstacles regarding a degree recital, AND (2) the student has already secured the willing participation of a musician assigned to the other half of the orchestra with whom s/he can switch assignments. In the case of section strings, students requesting to exchange assignments should be, as much as possible, of similar experience and technical expertise.

Rehearsal schedules:
Rehearsal schedules for the week (and sometimes beyond) are posted in three locations. It is the responsibility of all students to check this schedule regularly for important information, as well as updates and changes to the schedule. Failure to consult the schedule is not an excuse for failing to appear at required rehearsals, etc. Rehearsal schedules are posted for the convenience of the students. However, students should under no circumstances make commitments during any part of scheduled rehearsals, as schedules are subject to change.
Rehearsal schedules are posted (1) in the MPAC on the glass near the stage left exit, (2) in the COM on the orchestra board near room 232, and (3) online at http://music.unt.edu/orchestra/rehearsal.html. Schedules are usually posted in the MPAC and COM no later than Friday afternoon, and never later than 9:00am Monday. The online schedule will usually be available on Friday but will always be posted by Sunday evening at the latest.

UNT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FALL 2023 Rehearsal & Performance Schedule
[Schedule subject to change]
[Rehearsal = 2:15-4:05pm rehearsal]

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<td>unacceptable part test] will not be admitted to the subsequent rehearsals and will be considered unexcused.]</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Rehearsals 10:00am-12:30pm</td>
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<td>and 2:00-4:30pm **</td>
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<td>Rehearsal**</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Rehearsal** [2:15-5:00]</td>
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<td>7:30 Concert – Call time 7:00</td>
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<td>Symphony No. 4</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>PART PREPARATION TEST DUE 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Rehearsal</td>
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** No excused absences for these rehearsals.

Continued ---- >>
October

2  Rehearsal**

4  Rehearsal** [2:15-5:00]

**7:30 Concert – Call time 7:00

Assad Bonecos de Olinda
Walton Viola Concerto [Prof. Dubois]
Stravinsky Firebird Suite (1919)

6  Day off

October

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm [Winspear Stage]</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Rehearsal 2:15-5:00 [Lyric pit] Rehearsal</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Rehearsal [Lyric pit]</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm [Lyric pit]** Dress Rehearsal 7:00pm [Lyric pit]**</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Rehearsal 7:00pm [Lyric pit]**</td>
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November

1  Rehearsal 2:15-5:00**

**7:30 Concert

3  Day off

5  Performance 7:30pm

6  Rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm [Winspear Stage]

8  Rehearsal [Lyric pit] Performance 3:00pm

10  Performance 7:30pm

11  Performance 7:30pm

13  Performance 7:30pm

15  Performance 7:30pm

17  Performance 7:30pm

27  Performance 7:30pm

29  Performance 7:30pm

23  Performance 7:30pm

FULL ORCHESTRA

December 1  Rehearsal -- student composition readings

4  Rehearsal [Tosca]

6  Rehearsal [Tosca]

8  Rehearsal -- student composition readings

** No excused absences for these rehearsals.

IMPORTANT DATES for SPRING SEMESTER 2024

January 16  First day of UNT classes
January 17(Wednesday) First rehearsal of the semester
January 20 (Saturday) Conducting workshop sessions **
January 21 (Sunday) Conducting workshop sessions **
February 10 (Saturday) Rehearsal 2:00-5:00pm (Tosca)
February 12 (Monday) Rehearsal 7:00-11:00pm (Tosca) **
February 14 (Wednesday) Rehearsal 7:00-11:00pm (Tosca) **
February 15 (Thursday) Rehearsal 7:00-11:00pm (Tosca) **
February 16 (Friday) 7:30 performance (Tosca)
March 6  7:30 performance
April 21 (Sunday) Rehearsal 7:00pm to 10:00pm **
April 23 (Tuesday) Rehearsal 7:00pm to 10:00pm **
April 24 (Wednesday) 7:30pm performance (w/ Grand Chorus)
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
See: Academic Integrity
LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
See: Student Code of Conduct
Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT
See: Eagle Connect
LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT
See: ODA
LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity
See: Diversity Statement

Registration Information for Students
See: Registration Information
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/students

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021
See: Academic Calendar
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Fall_2021_Academic_Calendar.pdf

Final Exam Schedule
See: Fall Final Exam Schedule
https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

Graduates
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS
See: FERPA
Link: http://ferpa.unt.edu/

COUNSELING AND TESTING
See: Counseling and Testing
Link: http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:
See: Mental Health Issues
The counselor for music students is:
Myriam Reynolds
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741
Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY
See: Dropping a Class
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class

STUDENT RESOURCES
The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:
See: Student Resources
Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf