MUSI 3235.001 – PERCUSSION CLASS
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Ben J. Tomlinson
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Office: Music 124C
Office Hours: by appointment
Time: TR 8:00-9:15
Location: Band Hall, Wright Music Building

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The purpose of this course is to provide music educators with basic information concerning teaching methods and performance techniques for musical instruments common to the percussion family. Students will follow a course of study that will enable them to teach beginning students at the elementary or secondary school levels and to continue to provide them with an accepted, organized approach to learning and developing percussion techniques and skills.

This course of study is designed to acquaint students with the history of each major instrument found in the percussion family, their acoustical properties and methods of sound production, and the idiosyncrasies of percussion music notation. It will provide future band and orchestra directors with a rudimentary technique on many of the instruments labeled percussion, concentrating on those that are most common to today’s elementary and high school band and orchestra literature.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Through study, practice and class participation, students will be able to demonstrate the fundamental performance techniques for common instruments in the concert band percussion section.
2. Through concert reviews, students will demonstrate their ability to recognize and understand how percussion integrates with various other instruments in various performance venues.
3. Through website reviews, students will become familiar with how to use the internet to reference and research various percussion topics including manufacturers, distributors, artists, and performance organizations.
4. Through compiling a comprehensive notebook, students will be familiar with all of their course information and have an at-hand resource throughout their career to quickly answer future percussion questions.
5. Through class discussion, students will be familiar with the common pedagogical and philosophical approaches to percussion teaching and how to apply them within their own future teaching environment.
TEXT AND MATERIALS:
- Primatic, Stephen *Percussion Methods*
- One Liberty 1 Basic Stick/Mallet pack
- Reel-Feel 6” Practice Pad (Checked out from instructor)
- Three-ring binder with dividers for notebook

It is expected you will bring these items to every class meeting. Student is responsible for ordering and obtaining materials in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your participation grade.

GRADING POLICY
Grades will be determined as follows:
Participation/Homework/Quizzes- 20%
Playing Quizzes/Mini Lessons- 20%
Written Exam (Midterm)- 15%
Written Exam (Final)- 15%
Teaching Final Exam- 10%
Projects- 20 %
- Concert Attendance/Write up
- Budget Project
- Part Assignments
- Methods Binder

GRADING SCALE:

**Participation/Homework/Quizzes**
This portion of your grade is dependent on your attendance and participation in daily classroom activity along with completion of any assigned homework. The instructor will conduct two scheduled binder checks to maintain organization and gathering of materials. Quizzes will be taken via D2L.

**Playing Quizzes (Non Percussionists)**
There will be four playing test throughout the semester. Quizzes will be over the following categories: Snare Drum, Keyboard, Accessories, Timpani. These sessions will be scheduled outside of class time and the students will sign up for a time prior to the quiz. Students will be evaluated in three areas: preparation (10 pts), technique (10 pts) and musicality (5 pts). These quizzes will be distributed evenly across 20% of the students final grade.

**Mini-Lessons (percussionists)**
Students will be required to teach on two separate occasions for a session between 8-10 minutes. These will be in differing categories (snare, marimba, timpani, accessories) and will take place outside of class. These will count as TWO playing quizzes each.
Exams
There are two exams that will be given during this course, a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will cover all material up to that point in the class and the final exam will be cumulative.

Teaching Final Exam
During the last week of classes, students will schedule an 8-10 minute private lesson with a student new to percussion. Further details will be provided as the end of the semester approaches.

Projects
Concert Attendance
Each student is required to watch (live or via livestream) a SFA Percussion Ensemble Concert. A double spaced, two-page review of the concert, detailing the pieces performed, the instruments used, and the applicable pedagogical/performance techniques utilized is required. Additionally, briefly discuss a challenge that each piece may pose to percussion students (rhythmic, technical, conceptual, endurance, etc.) and how you might address it when teaching. These will be due no later than one week after the performance along with a picture or a copy of the program.

Budget Project (Due 11/17 via Dropbox)
Your band hall was destroyed in a fire! You have $30,000 to replace your percussion instruments. Please put together a list including brand names, model numbers, prices and estimated shipping costs, for the instruments you would buy (an online wish list or cart is ok). The list should clearly show instrument choice, model number, and price and should be organized in spreadsheet format. Consider instruments, cases, sticks/mallets/beaters, and any music. All of these are not required – what you buy is up to you, however, you will include a 1-page double spaced justification of your choice. Marching percussion should NOT be included in this assignment. For prices please consult any of the following common percussion distributors, you may need to contact them directly for any unlisted prices (just ask as an individual):

Steve Weiss Music: www.steveweissmusic.com
Lone Star Percussion: www.lonestarpercussion.com
Percussion Source: www.percussionsource.com
Woodwind/Brasswind: www.wwbw.com
Interstate Music: www.interstatemusic.com

Part Assignments (Due 10/29 via Dropbox)
Given a high school percussion section, students will need to accurately assign parts for assigned band pieces so that all parts are covered.

Methods Binder
This is an organized notebook including all class notes, handouts, website reviews, tests, and other materials. The notebook should be turned in on the last day of class (12/3). All notes should be separated in your notebook as follows: Snare Drum, Keyboard, Timpani, Accessories, Drumset, Marching Percussion, Concert/Website Reviews/Tests. The goal of this notebook is to have a reference you can refer to over the next 5-10 years of teaching. Notebooks will be available for pick-up after the final exam.
ATTENDANCE
Due to the practical nature of this course and the amount of information covered per class, attendance at every class meeting is expected. **One unexcused absence is allowed from playing days.** Any unexcused absence past two will result in a reduction of one letter grade per absence. Two tardies to class is considered an unexcused absence.

Excused Absences:
1. Serious Illness (must present a doctor’s excuse)
2. Illness or death of a family member
3. University-related trips
4. Major religious holidays
5. “Reasonable cause for non-attendance” as determined by the instructor

PROJECTED TIME COMMITMENT
MUP305 “Percussion Methods: (2 credits) typically meets once a week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, with additional online assignments and reading, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have weekly reading assignments, are expected to take regular exams/quizzes and a final examination, are required to attend percussion events to learn about the world of percussion, are required to do two surveys of 5 percussion websites each to familiarize them with the percussion industry, are required to complete a percussion ensemble arrangement project, and are required to complete a methods binder to be used when they enter the field. These activities average at a minimum 1 hour of work each day to prepare outside of classroom hours. Additionally, there will be assignments on playing percussion instruments. The student should expect to spend fifteen minutes a day for four days a week for a total of one additional hour per week.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)
WITHHELD GRADES SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

MASK/CLOTH FACE COVERINGS
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class if in person and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Fall 2020 CLASS SCHEDULE

Wk1  - Introduction/Syllabus Review, Percussion Classifications, General Considerations, acquire materials

Wk2  - Snare Drum: Drumsticks, Grips, Snare Drum, Playing areas, Stroke: Singles, Doubles, Paradiddles, Rudiments p. 378 Read Ch. 1 pp. 8-31

Wk3  - Paradiddles, rolls, Style: Rolls, Notation (67-68), Flams/Drags (62-63), Sticking policies, Other drums, Rudimental vs. Concert read Ch. 1 pp. 32-42

Wk4  - Head Change, Special effects, Multiple Percussion, Discuss Playing Test (Snare Playing Quiz)
      - Accessories: BD/Cymbals read Ch. 2 pp. 43-53

Wk5  - Accessories: Triangle/Tambourines read Ch. 3 pp. 54-63
      - Accessory Lab, Band Placements pp. 63-72
Wk6  -Keyboard percussion: introduction to instruments and mallets  
Read Ch. 5 pp. 73-83 (Accessory Playing Quiz)

Wk7  -Strokes, playing areas, scales, rolls, general reading

Wk8  -Four mallet techniques read ch. 5 pp. 84-87 (Keyboard Playing Test)  
-Midterm (10/15)

Wk9  -Timpani Overview (Drums, Ear training) Read Ch. 6 pp. 88-97  
-Timpani Performance, solos, books, notation, etudes

Wk10 -Timpani Performance (Timpani Playing Quiz)  
Part Assignment Project Due (10/29)

Wk11 -Drumset History, instruments, set up Read Ch. 7 98-105  
-Drumset Basic styles, reading, method books, videos

Wk12 -World Percussion Read Ch. 8 pp. 106-109

Wk13 -Marching Percussion Read Ch. 9 pp. 110-114  
Budget Project Due (11/17)

Wk14 Thanksgiving Break

Wk15 -Percussion Ensemble, Section Techniques Read Ch. 10 pp. 115-128  
-Review for Final Exam  
Methods Binder Due (Last Day of Class) (12/3)  
Schedule Teaching Final Exams

FINAL EXAM: 12/10/2020- 8-10:30 AM

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed in class or via email.