MUSI 3235 001 – PERCUSSION CLASS
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. James W. Vilseck
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Office: Music 124C
Office Hours: by appointment
Time: TR 001: 8:00-9:15
Location: Wright Music Building Room 121 (Band Hall)

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 (encore)
- 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 - 20%
Playing Quizzes/Mini Lessons - 20%
Vic Firth Percussion 101 Quizzes - 5%
Written Exam (Midterm) - 15%
Written Exam (Final) - 15%
Teaching Final Exam - 10%
Projects - 15%
- Concert Attendance/Write up
- Budget Project
- Part Assignments

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.

Vic Firth Percussion 101 Quizzes
The Vic Firth Percussion 101 series of online videos is an excellent source of information on a wide variety of percussion instruments, techniques, and considerations. Students will watch the videos on each assigned instrument and then complete the quiz at the bottom of the page. To earn credit, students will submit a certificate of completion to D2L by the deadlines listed in the class schedule. Students will complete the Snare drum, Keyboard percussion, Timpani, Tambourine, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals, and Triangle quizzes. Students can access Vic Firth Percussion 101 at: [https://vicfirth.zildjian.com/education/percussion-101.html](https://vicfirth.zildjian.com/education/percussion-101.html)

Playing Quizzes (Non Percussionists)
There will be four playing quizzes 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.

**Quiz Dates (Due by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid)**

- **Snare Drum** – 9/19
- **Accessories** – 10/2
- **Keyboard** – 10/16
- **Timpani** – 10/30

**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, keyboard) and will take place outside of class. These will count as TWO playing quizzes each.

**Mini Lesson Dates (Due by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid)**

- **Snare Drum** – 10/2
- **Keyboard** – 10/30

**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 5-8 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 attend the SFA Percussion Ensemble Concert on **November 5th at 7:30PM**. A double spaced, two-page minimum 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. **The concert review will be due by 11/13 at 11:59 PM via D2L**

**Part Assignments**

Given a high school percussion section, students will need to accurately assign parts for assigned band pieces so that all parts are covered. **Due 11/13 by 11:59 PM via D2L**

**Budget Project**

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

Due 11/20 by 11:59 PM via D2L

ATTENDANCE
Due to the practical nature of this course and the amount of information covered per class, attendance at every class meeting is expected. **THREE unexcused absences are allowed.** Any unexcused absence past three 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

MUSI 3235 “Percussion Methods: (2 credits) typically meets twice a week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, 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, and are required to complete a percussion ensemble arrangement project. 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

WITHELD 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/.

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

Fall 2021 CLASS SCHEDULE

8/24-8/26 -Introduction/Syllabus Review, Percussion Classifications, General Considerations, acquire materials
-Snare Drum: Drumsticks, Grips, Snare Drum, Playing areas, Stroke: Singles
Read Ch. 1 pp. 8-31

8/31-9/2 -Stroke: Doubles, Paradiddles, Rudiments
-Paradiddles, rolls, Style: Rolls, Notation Flams/Drags Read Ch. 1 pp. 32-42

9/7-9/9 -Sticking policies, Other drums, Rudimental vs. Concert

9/14-9/16 -Head Change, Special effects, Multiple Percussion, Discuss Playing Test - Accessories: BD/Cymbals Read Ch. 2 pp. 43-53
Snare Playing Quiz due 9/18 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid
VF Percussion 101 Snare Drum Quiz due 9/18 by 11:59 PM via D2L

9/21-9/23 -Accessories: Triangle/Tambourines Read Ch. 2 pp. 54-63
-Accessory Lab; Read Ch. 2 pp. 63-72
9/28-9/30  - Keyboard percussion: introduction to instruments/mallets *Read Ch. 5 pp. 73-83*
  - Accessory Playing Quiz due 10/2 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid
  - Snare Drum Mini-Lesson (Percussionists) due 10/2 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid
  - VF Percussion 101 Triangle, Bass Drum, Tambourine, and Crash Cymbal quizzes due 9/18 by 11:59 PM via D2L

10/5-10/7  - Strokes, playing areas, scales, rolls, general reading
  - Keyboard Percussion playing day

10/12-10/14 - Four mallet techniques *Read Ch. 5 pp. 84-87*
  - Timpani Overview (Drums, Ear training) *Read Ch. 6 pp. 88-97*
  - Keyboard Playing Quiz due 10/16 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid
  - VF Percussion 101 Keyboard Quiz due 9/18 by 11:59 PM via D2L

10/19-10/21 - Timpani Performance, solos, books, notation, etudes
  - Timpani Performance

10/26-10/28 - Drumset History, instruments, set up *Read Ch. 7 pp. 88-105*
  - Drumset Basic styles, reading, method books, videos
  - Timpani Playing Quiz due 10/30 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid
  - VF Percussion 101 Timpani Quiz due 9/18 by 11:59 PM via D2L
  - Keyboard Mini Lesson (Percussionists) due 10/30 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid

11/1-11/4  - Assigning Parts, Percussion in Ensembles, Budgeting
  - Percussion Ensemble, Section Techniques *Read Ch. 10 pp. 115-128*
  - SFA Percussion Ensemble Concert 11/5 at 7:30 PM

11/9-11/11  - World Percussion, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, Steel Pan *Read Ch. 8 pp. 106-109*
  - Concert Review AND Part Assignment Project due 11/13 by 11:59 PM via D2L
  - NO CLASS ON 11/11 (PASIC)

11/16-11/18 - Marching Percussion (Drumline) *Read Ch. 9 pp. 110-114*
  - Marching Percussion (Front Ensemble)
  - Budget Project due 11/20 by 11:59 PM via D2L

11/23-11/25  - NO CLASSES; THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/30-12/2  - Final Discussion
  - Review for Final Exam
  - Schedule Teaching Final Exams

**FINAL EXAM: 001:** Tuesday, Dec. 7th 8-10 a.m.