Marching Band Techniques
MUSI 4172.002/5172.001 – Fall 2023

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Office Hours – By appointment
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Class Meeting Time – F 11:00am – 11:50am
Class Location – MUS 121 (Band Hall), livestream (distance students only), asynchronous video (distance students only, link posted on the BAND App later the same day)

Course Description
Introduction to and development of the knowledge base and pedagogical skills required to successfully teach marching band.

Program Learning Outcomes
• Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements of music, including sight-singing and analysis.
• Students will develop and demonstrate comprehensive capabilities in rehearsing and preparing a high-level performance in ensembles.
• Students will demonstrate proficiency in their applied area by completing projects, preparing performances, creating original content, and mastering skills as appropriate for their field.

Student Learning Outcomes
• Students will gain an understand of the administrative needs of effective marching band management and develop strategies for accomplishing these numerous tasks
• Students will learn the various aspects of show planning and develop techniques for effective show design
• Students will cultivate pedagogical strategies for teaching and refining visual fundamentals, rehearsing music in a marching band context, introducing and refining drill, and effective rehearsal planning of marching band instruction across various stretches of time throughout a season
• Students will develop proficiency in drill writing techniques and application of this skills with Pyware drill design software
Required Course Materials

• Student version of Pyware 3D Java Interactive - $99
  ○ Purchase and download instructions will be communicated directly from Pyware and clarifications will be given during the first class meeting of the semester
  ○ This license is your “textbook” for the course, is valid for 6 months from the day of purchase, and the price can be applied towards a full educator license if so desired

• Laptop computer (or desktop for distance students) for in-class drill writing activities

• BAND App account (see “Course Organization” for more details)

Course Requirements
This course will familiarize students with all aspects of marching administration, pedagogy, and show planning, with a particular emphasis on drill design. Students will be expected to proactively engage with the course material and come to class prepared to interact, teach, and learn. Students will have weekly research and/or drill writing assignments to build proficiency in the areas of marching band administration, teaching, drill design, and Pyware software usage. These assignments will culminate in a final project in which students will write a corps-style Pyware drill design for a provided marching band score. Due to the breadth of information covered, advanced nature of the course, and steep learning curve of various skills (especially the Pyware software), it is recommended that students average at least five hours of preparation per week outside of the classroom meeting time.

Course Organization
All materials, assignment submissions, and other logistical matters for the course will be done through the Band app. Students must join the course’s Band app page here and create a profile to be used throughout the semester.

Course Calendar
A calendar containing discussion topic and assignment deadlines will be posted separately on the Band in the “Files” section.
Grading Policy
Each student’s grade will be based on the following formula:

Weekly Assignments – 50%
Final Project – 40%
Participation – 10%

All assignments must be clear, neat, and typed (unless otherwise specified). Successful marching band management demands that one be able to plan proactively and meet deadlines. Therefore, assignments will be lowered one letter grade for each day (24-hour period) submitted after the deadline.

Attendance Policy
All students are required to attend every class meeting. On-campus students must attend class in-person (unless otherwise arranged with the instructor). Distance students are expected to livestream (see link on pg. 1 next to “Class Location”) with their cameras on for the duration of the class.

Attendance issues will affect the final course grade according to the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Absence</th>
<th>Penalty/Consequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 unexcused absence</td>
<td>Highest possible grade = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 unexcused absences</td>
<td>Highest possible grade = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 unexcused absences</td>
<td>Highest possible grade = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more unexcused absences</td>
<td>Failing grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tardies</td>
<td>1 unexcused absence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Absences may be excused in extreme circumstances and must be approved by the instructor.
Academic Integrity
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.
**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/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

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. For additional information, go to

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf

**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/
Mental Health and Wellness
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Service
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255) Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741