Steel Band  
MUEN.1139.011

Name: Dr. James Vilseck  
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Office Hours: By appointment  
Department: Music

Class meeting time and place: Monday/Friday: 1:00-1:50PM: Wright Music Building 124

Course Description: The SFA Steel Band is designed to provide an exciting/intense musical setting for the student percussionist to develop Latin, world, and popular musical styles of performance. In today’s society, development of these styles is invaluable for the career percussionists and educator. Performance on all pans is expected as well as drumset, Latin Percussion & vocals. Developing improvisations skills, on pans and percussion, is an integral part of participating in the ensemble. Opportunities also exist for student arranging, rehearsing, and directing.

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours: The ensemble will meet for two hours each week. Additional rehearsals may occur with advanced notice. Students will practice their music outside of normal rehearsal times, including by themselves and with others.

Bachelor of Music – Program Learning Outcomes – Ensemble Performance
Students will develop and demonstrate comprehensive capabilities in rehearsing and preparing instruction, and high-level engagement and performance in classroom and ensembles.

Student Learning Outcomes: MUP 139/339: SFA Steel Band (section 11)
1. Through rehearsal and performance, students will demonstrate the required technical facilities to meet the needs of artistic expression specific to the instrument/part assigned.
2. Through a variety of performance programs, students will be familiar with a thorough cross-section of steel band literature.
3. Through private practice, rehearsal and performance, students will demonstrate the practical application of theory and aural skills within a chamber music setting.
4. Through rehearsal and performance, students will demonstrate a working ability to sight-read on all instruments used in the ensemble.
5. Through individual solos, students will demonstrate the ability to improvise within the context of the specific form and piece.
6. Through rehearsal and performance, students will demonstrate the ability to communicate and work together without a conductor.
7. Through rehearsal and performance, students will learn how to listen and be familiar with their musical surroundings, and how to integrate their own part into that musical environment.
8. Through concert performance, students will learn how to successfully program a steel band concert with regard to both musical and logistical needs.
9. Through steel band participation, students will demonstrate the proper care, maintenance, and logistical requirements (set-up transportation) for all instruments used.
10. Through individual arrangements, students (usually older, having been in the group 2-3 years) will demonstrate the ability to arrange a song or work specifically for the steel band instrumentation. Students will also demonstrate a working knowledge of music writing software (finale) with these projects.

Required Materials: Concert dress: Hawaiian Shirt (any color), Black Pants, Black Dress Shoes, Black Socks
Important Dates:
Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday, Apr. 30th 3-6pm; Cole Recital Hall
Concert: Tuesday, Apr. 30th 6pm; Cole Recital Hall
Be aware of the potential for an added outside dress rehearsal and/or added outside performances. Any added events will be communicated in person and in writing.

Grading: Assuming attendance is perfect, grading will be based on the following:
- Music Preparation – 30%
- Video Assignment – 10%
- Set-up Preparation and Attendance (see below) – 50%
- General attitude and professionalism in rehearsals and performances – 10%

Return of all original music and the provided binder in original condition is required at the end of the semester. Failure to return original music will result in an incomplete for the course until that music is returned (continued failure to return music will result in the student being financially responsible for that music).

Music Preparation: This is done OUTSIDE of the ensemble rehearsal and includes practicing, marking/copying music, and upkeeping a complete notebook of required music. If adequate progress is not made on music, students will be given a warning, specific practice goals, and time for correction. Any subsequent offenses will result in a 1/3rd letter grade deduction.

Video Assignment: There will be one video assignment submitted via D2L during the semester. The student will rehearse, and video record a small segment of music for evaluation. The exact amount of music and the due date will be deterred by the instructor based on progress of the ensemble. Students will have at least a week from assignment to due date. Video assignments should be recorded individually, on the proper instrument, and with an audible metronome.

Set-up Preparation and Attendance: Rehearsal starts at 1:00pm and set up must be done by 1:05pm. This includes having all materials you need for that day’s rehearsal. A tardy is defined as not being ready to play by 1:05, including missing instruments, music, mallets, etc. Each offense will result in a 1/3rd letter grade deduction.

Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals and performances. This is a performance organization that depends on the consistent attendance of its members at both rehearsals and performances, therefore only excused absences, at the discretion of the instructor, will be allowed (these might include health reasons – with a doctor’s note, family emergencies, and/or student participation in certain University-sponsored events). The instructor must be notified ahead of time regarding any possible excused absences (except in emergency situations). Two or more unexcused absences will result in losing parts and ultimately, with repeated offense, failing the course.

- Unexcused absence at rehearsal
  = One letter grade drop per offense
- Unexcused Tardy to any dress rehearsal
  = One letter grade drop per offense
- Unexcused absence or Tardy at any performance, presentation, clinic, “gigs” or any other voluntary/personally accepted events coordinated by Dr. Vilseck or the Percussion GA (including both on- campus and off-campus events).
  = Automatic failure of class

General Attitude And Professionalism In Rehearsals And Performances: A positive and professional attitude is expected in all rehearsals and performances. Any issues of this nature will result in a warning, with second offenses resulting in a 1/3 letter grade reduction.
**Listening Health and Safety**
As this class involves the performance and demonstration of a large collection of percussion instruments, volumes will occasionally exceed safe listening limits (85dB). It is recommended that students bring musician’s ear plugs to class to protect their hearing. Safe listening is defined as a volume less than 85dB. At a constant 85dB, you have roughly 8 hours until permanent damage occurs, with that amount of time halving with each 3dB increase.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
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/academic_integrity.asp

**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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu
SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041
The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub” Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741