Percussion Methods
SFA School of Music
MUSI.3235.002

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Office Hours: By appointment
Department: Music
Class meeting time and place: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45; Wright Music Building 121

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 rudimental 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.

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours
MUSI 3235 “Percussion Methods: (2 credits) typically meets twice a week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks and meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have weekly reading assignments, occasional worksheets, regular quizzes, a midterm and final examination, are required to attend percussion events to learn about the world of percussion, are required to use online resources to familiarize them with the percussion industry and are required to complete percussion-based projects. Additionally, there will be assignments on playing percussion instruments. The student should expect to spend an average of fifteen minutes a day for four days a week for a total of one additional hour per week but can extend upwards to an additional one to two hours a week with certain projects.

Program Learning Outcomes
PLO 3: 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
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) or Equivalent
- Reel-Feel 6” Practice Pad (Checked out from instructor)
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**

- Participation/Attendance – 20%
- Homework/Projects/Quizzes- 45%
- Playing Quizzes/Mini Lessons- 20%
- Written Exam (Midterm)- 5%
- Written Exam (Final)- 10%

**GRADING SCALE:**

A: 100 –90  
B: 89–80  
C: 79 –70  
D: 69–60  
F: 59–0

**Attendance Policy**

Due to the practical nature of this course and the amount of information covered per class, attendance at every class meeting is expected. Attendance is taken at the start of every class meeting. An unexcused absence in any class meeting will result in the loss of participation points for that day. After **three unexcused absences**, further unexcused absences will result in a reduction of one-half letter grade per absence (5%) in addition to the loss of participation points. Three tardies are considered an unexcused absence. **Students who are tardy should check-in with the instructor prior to leaving to ensure they were not marked absent.** If the student is aware they will be absent or tardy, they should contact the instructor for further details on assignments and classwork. If a student is sick, you must submit a doctor’s note that includes the date of the missed class to be excused.

Examples of 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

**Late Work Policy**

Any assignment, quiz, or other work submitted after the deadline will receive partial credit. Assignment turned in within two days of the deadline will receive 75% credit. Any assignments received after two days will receive 50% credit. Most deadlines are at midnight though some are at the start of class time; plan accordingly. All assignments will be accepted until the beginning final examination time. In-class work, such as performance evaluations, cannot be submitted late.

**Course Requirements**

**Participation**

Five points will be earned at each class meeting for participation. Points will be deducted for being tardy (2 points), missing class materials (2 points), not participating in class activities (4 points), or unexcused absence (5 points).

**Homework/Quizzes/ Projects**

Small homework assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. For paper assignments, submission will be at the start of class on the due date. Additional assignments may be added at the discretion of the instructor. Most assignments are usually due the next class period. Refer to the calendar below for due dates. Projects are larger assignments that will be assigned a few weeks in advance. Anticipate needing up to a few hours of work for the projects. The three projects are the Budget assignment, Parts Assignment, and Concert Review. Rubrics and submission for the projects are under the “dropbox” in D2L.

**Note:** Attendance at the April 26th Percussion Ensemble Concert is required for the Concert Review Project. If a student has a school-related reason they are unable to attend, they must let the instructor know as soon as possible and an alternative concert will be assigned.

**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 corresponding quiz on D2L by the assigned due date. Full credit for each quiz will be given if completed by the due date, regardless of the score earned on the quiz. These quizzes were developed by Mark Wessels and Vic Firth for the Percussion 101 series. You can view the videos here: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF8265740CFB5F4C8](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF8265740CFB5F4C8)
Playing Quizzes (Non-Percussionists)
There will be five playing quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will be over the following categories: Snare Drum, Keyboard, Accessories, Percussion Ensemble. 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). Each quiz is worth 5% of the final grade, resulting in a total of 20% for all playing tests combined.

Quiz Dates (Due by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid)
- Snare Drum – 2/11
- Accessories – 2/25
- Keyboard – 3/10
- Percussion Ensemble – 4/16 (Observed in-class)

Conducting/Leading Warm-Up (Percussionists)
In lieu of playing tests, students who are percussion majors, minors, or have taken percussion lessons will be assigned days to lead the class in warm-up or performance. Students will be graded on preparation, information given, and commentary given to student’s performances. Students will lead a session on snare drum, keyboard, and percussion ensemble, which equals a playing test grade for each instrument. Percussionists will still perform the Accessories test for a grade. Dates and specific topics for the sessions will be communicated to students individually in advance.

Exams
There are two written 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. The exams may contain fill-in-the-blank, short answer, matching, multiple choice, and essay questions. A study guide will be provided a few weeks in advanced. The student must fill out the study guide assignment on their own and turn it in for an assignment grade. At least a week in advance, the answers of the study guide will be discussed in advance to ensure all students have the correct information.

Teaching Final Exam (Due by the Beginning of the Final Exam via Flipgrid)
During the last week of classes, students will schedule an 5-8 minute private lesson on snare drum basics with a student who has no prior experience with percussion performance. A basic lesson plan for the assignment is provided on D2L. Not every aspect of the lesson plan needs to be covered, but the lesson should be education and logical. Percussionists who have lead class warm-ups will instead do a lesson on Timpani.

Communications
Students are heavily encouraged to regularly communicate with the professor in case of any confusion. It is recommended to refer to the syllabus followed by the course in D2L to search for your answer before contacting the professor. If you cannot find your answer, please email the professor. Any questions related to assignments must be communicated before the due date of the assignment.

Percussion Events on Campus
1/22- Dr. Brad Meyer Faculty Recital, 6pm, Cole Hall
3/21- Dr. Jamie Vilseck Faculty Recital, 6pm, Cole Hall
4/26- SFA Percussion Ensemble Concert, 7:30pm, Cole Hall (REQUIRED ATTENDENCE)
4/30- SFA “Jacks of Steel” Steel Band, 6pm, Cole Hall

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 (4.1)
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.

**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](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/](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](http://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](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
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
**SPRING 2024 CLASS SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>Snare Drum: Sticking Policies, Rudiments: Buzz and Double Stroke Rolls, Paradiddles</td>
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</tbody>
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| 1/25 | Snare Drum: Flams/Drags Read Ch. 1 pp. 32-42  
*Sticking Assignment due at the Start of Class* |
| 1/30 | Snare Drum: Rudimental vs. Concert Styles  
Concert Playing Test  
*Rudimental Solo Groups and Evaluation in Class* |
| 2/1 | Snare Drum: Head Changes, Tuning, Special effects, Toms, Multiple Percussion, Concert Playing Test |
| 2/6 | Accessories: BD Read Ch. 2 pp. 43-46  
Accessories: Cymbals Read Ch. 2 pp. 47-53  
Concert Marches |
| 2/8 | Accessories: Tambourine/Triangle Read Ch. 2 pp. 54-63  
Accessory Playing Test  
*Snare Playing Quiz due 2/11 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid  
*VF Percussion 101 Snare Drum Quiz due 2/11 by 11:59 PM via D2L |
| 2/13 | Accessories Lab Read Ch. 2 pp. 63-72  
Accessories Review/ Playing Test |
| 2/15 | Keyboard percussion: introduction to instruments/mallets Read Ch. 5 pp. 73-83  
Strokes, playing areas, scales, rolls, general reading |
| 2/20 | Keyboard Playing Day  
Mallet Duos |
| 2/22 | Four Mallet Techniques Read Ch. 5 pp. 84-87  
Mallet Duos  
Pass Out Midterm Study Guide  
*Accessory Playing Quiz due 2/25 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid  
*VF Percussion 101 Triangle, Bass Drum, Tambourine, and Crash Cymbal quizzes due 2/25 by 11:59 PM via D2L |
| 2/27 | Keyboard Playing Day  
Mallet Duos  
Midterm Exam Review  
*Mallet Duo Performances/Evaluations in Class* |
| 2/29 | Timpani Overview (Drums, Ear training) Read Ch. 6 pp. 88-97  
*Midterm Exam Study Guide Due at Start of Class* |
| 3/5 | Timpani Performance, Books, and Notation |
| 3/7 | MIDTERM EXAM  
*Timpani Tuning Assignment Due at the Start of Class  
*Keyboard Playing Quiz due 3/10 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid  
*VF Percussion 101 Keyboard Quiz due 3/10 by 11:59 PM via D2L |
| 3/12-14 | NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK |
| 3/19 | Percussion in Ensembles, Budgeting, Assigning Parts Ch. 10 pp. 115-128 |
| 3/21 | Drum Set Introduction, Rock and Roll Styles, Reading Read Ch. 7 pp. 88-105 |
| 3/26 | Drum Set Jazz styles, World Grooves, Set-ups, Soloing, Books  
*VF Percussion 101 Timpani Quiz due 3/30 by 11:59 PM via D2L* |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>NO CLASS- EASTER BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Introduction to Percussion Ensemble</td>
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<td></td>
<td>World Percussion: Afro-Cuban, Hand Drums *Read Ch. 8 pp. 106-109</td>
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<td>*Drum Set Worksheet Due at Start of Class</td>
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<td>4/4</td>
<td>World Percussion: Steel Drums, Brazilian Percussion, Other</td>
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<td>*Budget Project due 4/7 by 11:59pm via D2L</td>
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<td>4/9</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble Playing Day</td>
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<td>Assigning Parts Assignment</td>
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<td>4/11</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble Playing Day</td>
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<td>4/16</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble Playing Day</td>
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<td>Pass Out Final Exam Study Guide</td>
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<td>*Percussion Ensemble Playing Test/Evaluations in Class</td>
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<td>4/18</td>
<td>Marching Percussion *Read Ch. 9 pp. 110-114</td>
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<td>*Parts Assignment Due 4/21 by 11:59PM via D2L</td>
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<td>4/23</td>
<td>Marching Percussion Review and Playing Day</td>
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<td>4/25</td>
<td>Review/Catch-up/TBD</td>
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<td>*SFA Percussion Ensemble Concert 4/26 at 7:30 PM- Required Attendance</td>
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<td>*Final Exam Study Guide Due at Start of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/30</td>
<td>Review/Catch-up/TBD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student’s Choice Topics</td>
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<td>Final Exam Study Guide</td>
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<td>*”What’s Wrong With This” Activity in class</td>
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<td>*Final Exam Study Guide Due at start of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Review for Final Exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Concert Review Assignment Due 5/5 by 11:59 PM via D2L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Teaching Final Exam Due 5/5 by 11:59 PM via Flipgrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/7 or</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>Section 001- 5/7 8-10am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Section 002- 5/9 8-10am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Deadline for Any Late Assignments at the Start of Exam</td>
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