

University Percussion Ensemble

MUEN 1118/3118- Fall 2017

Sam Houston State University

MUS201, T/TH 7:00-9:00pm

Instructor: **Dr. Brian Graiser, Adjunct Instructor of Percussion**

Office: **MU 214 (office hours by appointment)**

Email: **brian.graiser@shsu.edu**

Required Materials:

- ☐ Appropriate sticks/mallets and accessories
- ☐ Music folder
- ☐ Access to (and regular use of) practice facilities

Course Objectives

The purpose of this class is to provide percussion students with rehearsal and performance experience within a chamber percussion ensemble setting. Students will develop practical skills in ensemble functionality (including rehearsal techniques, balance, and ensemble musicality) as well as gain a greater understanding of the repertoire through discussion and performance of both historically-significant and forward-looking contemporary works. Students will participate in small (2-4 players) and larger (5+ players) ensembles, and will perform at both the Fall UPE Concert and the Night of Percussion (see **Calendar**).

Instruction

Class instruction will largely consist of ensemble rehearsal, with occasional brief lectures regarding the selected repertoire. Students may be asked to demonstrate solo and ensemble playing skills in rehearsal, and to organize and participate in breakout rehearsals with subgroups.

Attendance Policy

Due to the importance of each member in any chamber ensemble, it is CRUCIAL that all students show up on time and fully prepared to each rehearsal. Students are expected to not only be present for the pieces in which they are involved; **they must have all necessary instruments and materials set up BY THE START OF REHEARSAL**. Furthermore, a student is not considered prepared if he/she has not sufficiently practiced outside of rehearsal in order to meet the stated rehearsal goals given by the instructor, and his/her grade will reflect that lack of preparation (see **Grading Policy** for more information). Students will NOT receive any free passes for unexcused absences without prior consent from the instructor, and will receive a grade of 0% for the missed event. Absences are excused solely at the discretion of the instructor, and typically are due to such serious events as medical emergencies or a death in the family.

Instrument Care

At each rehearsal, the students will be responsible for moving the instruments to and from their storage locations using proper moving techniques. As future music professionals who will likely need to consider instrument purchase and repair budgets one day, learning how to take care of

these instruments is perhaps one of the most important skills to be gained from this class. **Students of this class will be held responsible for any damage due to improper treatment of school instruments and materials; this includes damage due to improper transportation/storage as well as improper playing techniques. It will be the responsibility of the student to repair or replace any damaged or missing equipment at their expense. Students will receive a grade of "Incomplete" if all school materials are not returned in good condition, or else repaired or replaced.**

Practice and Study Expectations

Students in this class are expected to practice their ensemble music regularly. It is highly advised that students commit to short but consistent practice every day, rather than attempt to "cram" in infrequent long practice sessions. As with most professional ensembles, specific goals may be given by the instructor in preparation for rehearsals. It is the students' responsibility to prepare their own parts well in advance of ensemble rehearsals, so that the time spent together is not wasted addressing individual issues. **DO NOT WAIT TO LEARN YOUR PARTS DURING REHEARSAL.**

Blackboard

<http://shsu.blackboard.com> – The Blackboard site for this class will contain important course documents that you will be required to access during the course of each unit. Please check the blackboard site often for updates. You can also check your progress as grades are entered for each assignment.

Grading Policy

As with most ensembles, students' grades are largely dependent on attendance and participation (including preparation) in rehearsals and concerts. The final grade will be determined by the following rubric:

Rehearsals*	80%
UPE Concert**	10%
Night of Percussion**	10%

*Including Dress Rehearsals (see **Grade Breakdown** below)

**Failure to be on time and fully prepared to any concert will result in an automatic grade of 0% for that event. If a student completely misses a concert, his/her OVERALL CLASS GRADE will be lowered by three letter grades with no possibility to make up the lost points.

Students will be held to a high standard of professionalism that includes preparation, responsibility, and respect for each other, the instructor, and the instruments. Any student who does not demonstrate these qualities on a consistent and sustained basis may be removed from the ensemble at the instructor's discretion, resulting in a final grade of F.

Grade Breakdown

Each student will receive a letter grade for every rehearsal, which will then be averaged together to calculate his/her overall rehearsal grade component (which is 80% of the total grade). The possible grades are defined as follows:*

A+ (100%)- The student is present and has all instruments and materials set up at the start of rehearsal, has sufficiently practiced in preparation for that rehearsal, has met all stated goals, and is actively engaged and professional during rehearsal.

A (90%)- The student is present and has all instruments and materials set up at the start of rehearsal, has clearly practiced in preparation for that rehearsal but perhaps has not quite reached all stated goals, and is actively engaged and professional during rehearsal.

B (80%)- The student is present and has all instruments and materials set up at the start of rehearsal, has practiced in preparation for that rehearsal but not sufficiently (and has not reached the stated goals as a result), and is actively engaged and professional during rehearsal.

C (70%)- Either the student is late to rehearsal (being present is not enough, all instruments and materials must be set up at the start of rehearsal or the student is considered late), or else he/she has clearly practiced very little (if at all), and has made little or no progress in the preparation of his/her individual parts.

D (60%)- The student is late to or clearly unprepared for two or more consecutive rehearsals; the first such rehearsal will receive a grade of "C," and each subsequent unsatisfactory rehearsal will receive a grade of "D."

F (0%)- The student is not actively engaged in rehearsal and demonstrates a clear lack of respect, responsibility, and professionalism. If a student misses a rehearsal for unexcused reasons, he/she will automatically receive a 0% for that rehearsal.

*Dress Rehearsals for the UPE Concert and Night of Percussion count as two rehearsals each when calculating the overall rehearsal grade component.

Students with Disabilities Statement

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic functioning should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located in the Lee Drain Annex (next to Farrington) telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786 to apply for accommodations. In the event that accommodations are approved by SSD, the student is advised to schedule an appointment with the course instructor in order to present his/her accommodation form and discuss the arrangements for the accommodations.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted below, UPE will rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-9pm.

09/21- Faculty Gala, rehearsal schedule TBA

9/28- Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Concert, rehearsal schedule TBA

10/12- Jazz Ensemble and Lab Band Concert, rehearsal schedule TBA

10/22- UPE/Steel Band Concert (7:30pm, dress rehearsal earlier that day)

10/26- SHPG Concert, rehearsal schedule TBA

11/2- Wind Ensemble Concert, rehearsal schedule TBA

11/16- Jazz Ensemble and Lab Band Concert, rehearsal schedule TBA

12/5- Night of Percussion (7:30pm, dress rehearsal earlier that day)

****All rehearsals after Night of Percussion will focus on literature reading sessions and other possible special topics****