

Study of Percussion

83675-MUSI 3110-01- Spring 2017

Sam Houston State University

MUS201, T/TH 9:20-10:50am

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

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

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Required Materials:

- ☐ Teaching Percussion, 3rd Edition by Gary Cook (one copy on reserve in library)
- ☐ One pair of general snare drum sticks (i.e. Vic Firth SD1)
- ☐ 3-ring binder
- ☐ Practice pad

Recommended Materials:

- ☐ A Practical Guide to Percussion Terminology by Russ Girsberger
- ☐ Percussion Instruments and Their History by James Blades
- ☐ A detailed instrumentation/orchestration guidebook
- ☐ One pair of medium yarn marimba mallets

Course Objectives

The purpose of this class is to provide future music educators with introductory knowledge of percussion instruments and teaching methods as well as to provide an environment in which these instruments and methods may be experienced first-hand. Topics will include basic playing techniques for standard instruments, various teaching methods, setting up and organizing a percussion section, percussion notation, instrument purchasing, maintenance, and repair; and ensemble playing and coaching. A particular emphasis will be placed on the students' ability to teach fundamental aspects of percussion in a classroom setting, as well as the ability to evaluate and guide the progress of future percussion students.

There are a number of basic playing proficiencies which each student must demonstrate in order to receive a high grade. Typically, these are passed off with the instructor during the quizzes and/or Final Exam. The basic proficiencies for percussion may include BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO the following:

Keyboard Percussion: play selected major/minor scales and arpeggios across two octaves, play the chromatic scale across the entire range of the instrument, demonstrate basic proficiency with at least one 4-mallet grip by playing a suitable 4-mallet exercise, sight-reading.

Snare Drum: play a long closed roll (soft-loud-soft), demonstrate selected standard rudiments (slow-fast-slow), short prepared etude, sight-reading.

Timpani: demonstrate rolls on all drums at varying dynamic levels, demonstrate a forte-piano roll, play alternating drums with and without muting, play connected rolls on alternating drums, demonstrate tuning of four drums using an 'A' tuning fork, short etude, sight-reading.

Other: demonstrate basic technical proficiency on drum set, hand drums, orchestral/accessory percussion, and marching percussion.

Instruction

Class instruction will consist of a mixture of playing/demonstration teaching modules, student-led teaching segments, discussions of assigned readings and issues related to pedagogy, and lecture. Students will be expected to demonstrate solo and ensemble playing skills at each class.

Attendance Policy

The only way to learn, get a good grade, and ensure your success as a future educator (and therefore the success of your future students) is to come to class. Due to the hands-on nature of the course and the vast amount of material that must be covered in a span of only twelve weeks, it is crucial that all students show up on time to every class. In fact, it is even recommended that students show up a little early, in case they have any questions for the instructor prior to class starting. One missed class may translate into one concept not fully understood, which may one day result in a percussionist not being given all the tools to fulfill his/her potential. While there is no additional grade penalty for excessive absences or tardies, students who demonstrate poor attendance habits will soon discover that their overall class performance will suffer due to missing information.

Quizzes (written or playing) will be administered at the start of class. Class activities and discussion are intended to clarify and reinforce elements of course content, and there is a limited amount of time devoted to each instrument. Students are expected to notify the instructor well in advance of any anticipated absences via email. Missed quizzes may be made up at a later time at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Instrument Care

A significant part of this course is dedicated to the proper care, maintenance, and transportation of the various percussion instruments demonstrated in class. On some days, the students will be responsible for moving the instruments to and from their storage locations using proper moving techniques. As future music educators who will 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. 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.** Of course, none of this will be a problem if everyone simply takes care of all the equipment properly.

Practice and Study Expectations

This course will focus on both pedagogical understanding and developing playing technique. The pedagogical materials will be largely covered in class and through reading assignments; the technical skills must be developed through individual practice outside the classroom. The skills needed to achieve an effective understanding of percussion will require regular practice and reinforcement. **Students in this class are expected to practice percussion 15-20 minutes per day.** Consistency is the key to technical development, and it is highly advised that students plan to

commit to short but consistent practice every day, rather than attempt to “cram” for longer practice sessions only once or twice a week.

Arrangements may be made with the instructor on an individual basis to use SHSU's facilities to practice timpani, keyboard percussion, and auxiliary percussion. Private 15-minute lessons are also available throughout the semester with the instructor to reinforce the concepts learned in class (please arrange these on an individual basis as well). ***Please note- the instructor wishes to offer the highest level of accessibility to SHSU's facilities for students of this class, but some flexibility may be required as these facilities must be shared with the percussion studio and faculty***

Overall Class Preparation

Come to class prepared to play and to discuss assigned readings. Preparation of the readings is essential to reinforce information and for understanding practical applications discussed in class. The satisfactory completion of focused practice, assigned readings, and a hearty enthusiasm for class participation will play an important part in your successful completion of the course.

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

Midterm Exam (written)	20%
Final Exam (written)	20%
Unit Quizzes (playing)	40% (10% each)
Peer Teaching and Reflection	10%
Concert Review	10%
E-Portfolio	Complete/Incomplete**
Notebook	Complete/Incomplete**

** A grade of “Incomplete” will result in the student's OVERALL grade being lowered by 5 points per item. The reason for this strict policy is that, in the real world of teaching and job applications, you will encounter hard deadlines to turn in teaching videos, resumes, etc. If you don't meet the deadline, you simply won't get the job.

Please note- Unless otherwise instructed, NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. In the event that late assignments ARE accepted, students can expect to lose 20% of the total possible assignment grade per day past the original due date.

***Please note-** This course adheres to the University Code of Ethics regarding cheating and plagiarism. Furthermore, the instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism detection resources including but not limited to TURNITIN to evaluate the originality of written assignments*

ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

Exams:

Midterm- written, October 12

Final- written, *cumulative*, Finals Week (date/time TBD)

There will be no make-ups or retakes for exams without prior consent from the instructor.

Unit Quizzes:

There will be a playing quiz given at the end of each of the four units of study. These quizzes will be given during class time with the instructor in which the student will be asked to demonstrate the playing skills they have covered. The fourth playing quiz will be cumulative, and include skills from throughout the semester in addition to skills covered after the previous quiz. Make-ups or retakes will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor.

Peer Teaching and Reflection

Throughout the term, each student will be asked to demonstrate the teaching techniques that have been covered in class, both in and outside of class. Some demonstrations will involve the class; others will be in a private lesson format with another student and/or the instructor. At least one 10-15 minute out-of-class lesson must be planned, video-recorded, and reflected upon in a written document (at least one typed page), but only one of the student's choice *must* be included in the E-Portfolio (see below). Additional videos and/or reflections are purely optional, but encouraged. More details will be discussed in class.

Concert Review:

Students are required to attend and review at least one SHSU concert or recital with significant percussion involvement. Percussion Ensemble concerts, student recitals, and faculty concerts are acceptable, as are large ensemble concerts which feature sufficient percussion involvement (please note that Marching Band is excluded from this list). The review of the concert should be a 2-page typed paper that draws connections between the topics covered in class and what was observed at the concert. DO NOT provide opinions or subjective evaluations of the overall concert performance, unless they specifically focus on percussion. The concert review must be turned in at the end of the semester as a part of the Notebook (see below).

E-Portfolio

Students are required to build an E-Portfolio to assist with developing sound pedagogical skills, develop self-observation skills, and to start a teaching video library for possible future use in seeking employment. At the end of the semester, each student must submit an E-Portfolio in the form of a physical USB drive or Dropbox link. To receive a grade of "complete," the E-Portfolio will consist of at least one 10-15 minute video recording of an out-of-class teaching demonstration and an accompanying 1-2 page written reflection (students are encouraged to include more than one but those are considered optional). **If the E-Portfolio is not turned in, or does contain at least one 10-15 minute teaching video and its accompanying 1-2 page written reflection, the student will receive an E-Portfolio grade of "Incomplete" and the overall class grade will be lowered by 5 points.**

Notebook:

The notebook is meant to be a useful teaching resource in later years. Students are required to keep a physical notebook of all class materials, including personal notes, all handouts, and all graded written assignments, as well as the 2-page concert review. This notebook will be handed in and graded on organization and completeness at the end of the course, and returned to the student at the end of Finals Week. **If any materials are missing or improperly organized, the student will receive a notebook grade of "Incomplete" and the overall class grade will be lowered by 5 points.**

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.

Course Calendar

*****SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

8/24- Course introduction

Unit 1: Snare Drum, Marching Percussion

8/29- Basic techniques of grip and stroke, stick control

8/31- Rolls (buzz/orchestral/closed)

9/5- Rolls, continued (rebound, double sticking, marching/open rolls), Rudiments (flams and drags)

9/12- Rudiments, continued; Method Books and Teaching Techniques, Intro to Marching Percussion (Ch. 9)

9/14- Marching Percussion, continued: teaching techniques, orchestration, peer teaching

9/19- Playing Quiz #1 (Snare Drum)

Unit 2: Orchestral Percussion Instruments

9/21- Special Topic TBA

9/26- Timpani (Ch. 5)

9/28- Timpani, continued

10/3- Bass Drum and Cymbals (Ch. 6)- crash, suspended, marching, effects

10/5 Accessories (triangle, tambourine, etc.)

10/10- Playing Quiz #2 (Timpani and orchestral battery)

10/12-Midterm Exam

Unit 3: Keyboard Percussion

10/17- Introduction to keyboard instruments- marimba, xylophone, glockenspiel, vibraphone, chimes, crotales

10/19- Keyboard percussion exercises, warm-up activities, scales

10/24- Method Books and Teaching Techniques; Orchestration

10/26- 4-mallet technique

10/31- Literature Reading/Peer Teaching

11/2- Playing Quiz #3 (Keyboard Percussion)

Unit 4: Drum Set, World Percussion, Percussion Ensemble

11/7- Introduction to Percussion Ensemble; hand out parts

11/9- Special Topic TBA

11/14- Percussion Ensemble Literature and History

11/16- Drum Set (Ch. 8)

11/21- Drum Set, continued, Introduction to Hand Drums and World Percussion (Ch. 7)

11/28- World Percussion, continued; Final Review

11/30- Playing Quiz #4 (Cumulative, World Percussion, Drum Set), E-PORTFOLIOS DUE

Finals Week- Final Exam (cumulative), NOTEBOOKS DUE