

**Sam Houston State University – Graduate Applied Percussion
Syllabus/Curriculum
Fall 2017 - PERC 5201**

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Graduate Studies in Percussion:

Objective:

Percussion studies at Sam Houston State University are designed to develop the highest possible level of musicianship, performance, scholarship, and pedagogy. The nature of graduate studies in percussion is more specialized and individualized, therefore a curriculum is designed to reflect individual interests/strengths of the student in various areas of percussion and suited to individual ability level, correcting any deficiencies deemed necessary.

Objectives for Applied Lessons:

To gain a proficiency in performance to facilitate a broader understanding of musical expression.

To gain an understanding and mastery of a variety of techniques for any given instrument.

To gain/develop the skill of sight-reading to allow the student to read material of an easy to difficult level accurately.

To acquaint each student with advanced solo repertoire.

To gain a more complete understanding of the techniques of applied pedagogy.

To evaluate and criticize solo and pedagogical literature based on its intrinsic value to a performer or student of percussion.

Attendance:

Attendance to all lessons is considered **mandatory**. Only university or medically excused absences will be made up. However, ALL make-up lessons are at the discretion of the instructor.

Arrive early for lessons and be prepared with all materials.

Percussion Studio meetings will be held weekly. Attendance and participation is **mandatory** for all students enrolled in applied lessons. Attendance at **ALL** percussion events (recitals, clinics, studio class, guest recitals, etc...) is also considered **mandatory**.

Unexcused absences to lessons, studio class, rehearsals or percussion events will result in lowering the final grade by one letter per absence.

Location/Times: Lesson times are arranged individually with each student. Lessons will be held in 224, 213, 214, 215, and 220, depending on instrument of study.

Juries:

Graduate students will have a jury at the end of each semester in which they did not perform a recital. The material performed during the jury will reflect the student's level of achievement during the semester. Failure to attend the jury will result in failure of the course. Graduate assistants are required to sit on all undergraduate juries.

Grading:

The final grade is determined by averaging the weekly lesson grade (which may be lowered for attendance or inadequate preparation) and jury grade. There are approximately 13–15 lessons per semester.

The student receives a letter grade for each lesson based on preparation and performance on given assignments, including written assignments/transcriptions/compositions. These grades are averaged at the end of the semester. The jury grade is determined by the percussion faculty panel and based on the level of performance at the time of the jury.

A student who fails to complete any of the above requirements will have the grade reduced according to the degree of non-compliance. An "Incomplete" will not be given unless it is considered to be in the best interest of the student. An unexcused lesson absence will result in an F for that lesson (see section on attendance above).

For grading of the Literature and Pedagogy course, see below.

Assignments:

Transcriptions – All students studying drumset are required to submit a transcription of a noted drummer, preferably of a jazz drummer. Performance of the transcription will be part of the drumset jury requirement.

IMPORTANT:

Read my office door 224 and the percussion board outside 220 regularly as important announcements will be posted.

Only percussionists should be moving equipment. Make sure you are using the proper methods for moving instruments.

Make sure to cover all mallet instruments and timpani after use.

After using an instrument, return it to its proper location.

Materials:

The student is responsible for acquiring and bringing all implements, instruments, method books, and solo material deemed necessary by the instructor. The student should budget at least \$200 a semester for sticks, mallets, music and other items as needed.

Recitals:

Two recitals are required: Both solo and chamber music should be presented equally (i.e. a solo recital and a chamber recital). A recital hearing must be completed two weeks before the date of the recital. The hearing **must** be passed in order for the student to

proceed with the recital.

Graduate Pedagogy and Literature – Independent Study:

Various historical research projects, creative projects, pedagogical assignments, and projects on topics of interest to the percussion community will be assigned and completed during the course of study. The student will meet with the instructor once per week, or as determined, for discussions and evaluation of assignments. The grade is subjective and based on the instructor's assessment of the quality of the work and materials presented for each session. A letter grade will be given for each meeting and will be based on the quality of the work and preparation for discussion. There will be a total of 13–15 meetings per semester.

Oral Examination:

An oral examination will be administered during the last semester of study. Grading is pass/fail.

Percussive Arts Society Membership – PAS:

The purpose of the Percussive Arts Society is educational, promoting drums and percussion through a viable network of performers, teachers, students, enthusiasts, and sustaining members. PAS accomplishes its goals through publications, a worldwide network of chapters, pas.org, the Percussive Arts Society International Headquarters / Museum, and the annual Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC). PAS is a not-for-profit service organization.

All students enrolled in applied lessons are required to be active members of PAS.

The benefits, publications, and international information make membership in PAS one of the most valuable resources offered to a student percussionist. Electronic student membership is available at a very low cost, as is regular student membership. Students will be required to use the on-line resources in daily assignments and research as part of the applied curriculum. Article reviews from *Percussive Notes* are assigned regularly. Membership is required to access the publications division of the website.

Collegiate Percussion Association: The Collegiate Percussion Association is a music service organization promoting percussion education, research, performance and appreciation throughout our campus and community. Percussion majors are strongly encouraged to join and participate in the activities of this student organization. The CPA will host various guest artists and provide funding for regular percussion events on our campus. Payment of dues will be required on a semester or yearly basis. The only requirement for membership is to maintain an active PAS membership.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Student requests for accommodation must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner.

LINKS TO OTHER SHSU ACADEMIC/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Dishonesty:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Students with Disabilities:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf