FUNDAMENTALS OF PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

SYLLABUS - SPRING 2014

Department of Music and Theatre | College of Arts and Communication
West Liberty University

MUS 253, Section 01

Instructor: Professor Brian Baldauff
Office: FA 314
Phone: 304-336-8513
Email: brian.baldauff@westliberty.edu

Class Time: TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM
Class Location: FA 326
Credit Hours: 2

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Text and Materials


PAS Membership - go to www.PAS.org to join. ePAS membership is sufficient.

Other Materials - Please see the included list of “Required Supplemental Materials”.

Course Description

Practical experience in playing instruments of the percussion family. Students will gain an understanding of the core percussion instruments - snare drum, timpani, and mallet instruments - with regard to their pedagogy and performance practices. Trusted and current methods and literature will be used to teach sticking systems, solve notation problems, and develop an educated interpretation of percussion parts. Discussion of marching percussion and world percussion instruments will be included. Meets twice per week.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of percussion performance. The students will be able to demonstrate, through playing examinations and teaching demonstrations, that they will be effective percussion teachers in a school setting. Students will be exposed to various performance problems related to notation, instrument inventory, personnel, skill level, and others. Solutions to these issues will be created both in class and as homework assignments. Discussion of the marching percussion section will aid students in developing a philosophy for its inclusion in a well-rounded general percussion curriculum. Demonstration of effective rehearsal tactics and performance skills will be evaluated throughout the course of the semester and will culminate with the final examination.
Attendance

Attendance is required for ALL scheduled class meetings! Assimilation of the information presented depends on the student being present in class. Some demonstrations will only be given once during the semester. Each student will receive ONE unexcused absence for the semester. Any unexcused absences after this will reduce the student’s final grade by ten percent (10%). So, if a student has an average of 84% and accumulates two unexcused absences, this student's final grade will be a 74%. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to receive all notes and work missed from a colleague in the class. Excused absences will be granted on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to instructor approval. All excused absences need to be approved no later than 48 hours in advance of the class to be missed. Accumulation of more than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a final grade of F for the course.

Playing Exams

All students will perform a playing examination on snare drum, mallet percussion, and timpani. These exams will be performed outside of the regularly scheduled class time and will take place in the instructors teaching studio or FA 326. No make-up playing exams will be given for unexcused absences. In the case of an emergency, it will be the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 24 hours of the missed exam to reschedule. Failure to contact the instructor in the allotted time will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam. Details for each exam will be given in class. If a student does not pass the playing exam, or a portion of it, that student will be allowed to schedule a second playing exam. This can only be done once for each instrument.

Written Exams

There will be a total of two written exams given during the semester. Please refer to the course outline in this syllabus for the dates of the written exams. Make-up exams will be given to students only in the case of an emergency and must be scheduled within seven (7) days of the exam date. Make-up exams will be given on a case-by-case basis and will be at the discretion of the instructor. Please see the Grading Procedures section for additional information regarding the weight of the playing and written exams.

Projects

Philosophy for the Inclusion of Percussion Ensemble in the Public Schools

Each student will submit a thoughtful and professional argument for including percussion ensemble in the public school curriculum. The philosophy will be typed, one page, double-spaced, using twelve-point font. These will be submitted as part of the student's final notebook on the last day of class on May 1, 2014. No late papers will be accepted. Details for this assignment will be discussed in class. This is to be a continuous and evolving assignment, using data and arguments compiled from in-class discussions, articles, and the textbook.
**Cadence for Battery Percussion Instruments**

During the unit covering field and outdoor percussion, each student will be assigned to compose a short cadence for snare drums, tenors, multiple (tonal) bass drums, and cymbals. The cadence will be composed using a digital notation program such as Sibelius or Finale and will be submitted in score and part form. The length of the cadence will be at least 32 measures and will include contrasting sections. Further details for this assignment will be given in class. The final due date for this assignment will be April 15th. No late assignments will be accepted. If the student does not own a digital notation program, they are encouraged to purchase one. If the student is unable to purchase one, numerous free programs exist that may be downloaded from the internet.

**Part Assignments for a Concert Band Percussion Section**

As a music educator, you will have to make many decisions regarding the personnel of the percussion section with regards to part assignments. This can be very challenging given a limited inventory and either an over or under abundance of percussion students. For this assignment, you will be given three (3) pieces for concert band, each containing a different number of percussion parts with various instruments. You will be responsible for creating a matrix for each piece and assign your imaginary percussion section to individual parts. This might require you to combine parts, arrange new parts, or substitute alternate instruments in the absence of what the composer calls for. Further details will be given in class. This assignment will be due on May 1st in the final notebook. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Article Reviews**

Each student will have access to a wealth of articles and resources through their PAS membership. Each student is required to select three articles throughout the course of the semester (see due dates on calendar), print, and compose a brief evaluation of the article. The topic of each article must be different (e.g. - drum set, marching percussion, electronic percussion, mallet playing, etc.) and student reviews must reflect the discussions in class and in the Cook text. Be critical in terms of the article’s validity, clarity, and overall usefulness. Reviews need not exceed one (1) page, double-spaced in length.

**Notebook**

Each student will keep an organized and thorough notebook during this course. The notebook will be organized by instrument or instrument category with dividers. There will be a table of contents at the beginning of the notebook outlining the sections. Each section will contain all notes, handouts, exercises, and other various paraphernalia associated with that instrument. The notebook is meant to be a resource the student can keep and refer to during the student’s professional teaching career. All assignments will be filed in the notebook and submitted with it. Notebooks will be due on the last day of classes: May 1, 2014. No late notebooks will be accepted. **If the student neglects to turn in a notebook, a grade of F will be given for the course.**
**Final Exam**

The final exam will be comprised of each student conducting a short percussion ensemble piece, played by the other members of the class. Each student will be assigned a short etude to rehearse and given a predetermined amount of time to rehearse important aspects of the etude. In addition to observation of your rehearsal strategy, your performance in the other etudes will be evaluated as part of your final grade for the exam. Each student will be expected to perform their part to the best of their abilities. The pieces will be distributed, scores and parts, in a timely manner to give each student the opportunity to learn their respective parts and study the score for their conducted etude. The instructor will be evaluating the conductors based on preparation and knowledge of the score, information given to the performers regarding technique and sound production on various instruments, and overall rehearsal strategies. Comments will be provided for each conductor following the exam.

**Important note about lateness to or absence from the final exam** - Success in conducting your exam depends on all members being there for proper evaluation. Therefore, being tardy or absent to the final will result in a grade of F for the entire course. Please plan accordingly.

**Grading Procedures**

- **40%** Exams (average of 5 playing and written exams)
- **10%** Class Attendance and Participation
- **10%** Article Reviews
- **10%** Cadence Assignment
- **10%** Part Assignment Matrix
- **10%** Final Notebook Grade
  - Overall Organization - 5%
  - Philosophy Statement - 5%
- **10%** Final Exam Grade

\[ A = 90-100\% \quad B = 80-89\% \quad C = 70-79\% \quad D = 60-69\% \quad F = 0-59\% \]
Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus as necessary. Students will be informed of changes in a timely and appropriate manner.

Semester Calendar - Fundamentals of Percussion Instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Exams/Assignments/Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro to Class</td>
<td>Read Intro</td>
<td>Present argument for percussion ensemble in public schools - Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chapter 1 - General Considerations and Prerequisites</td>
<td>Pg. 1-23</td>
<td>Intro to wrist strokes, discussion of pedagogical concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chapter 2 - Basic Percussion Technique Through the Study of the Snare Drum</td>
<td>Pg. 24-78</td>
<td>Must have ALL required materials - January 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 2 and read Chapter 3 - Multiple Percussion</td>
<td>Pg. 79-92</td>
<td>Playing Exam Sign Ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Begin Chapter 4 - Keyboard Percussion (Thursday)</td>
<td>Pg. 79-92</td>
<td>Playing Exam 1; Written Exam 1 - Feb. 11 Article Review 1 Due - February 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chapter 4 - Keyboard Percussion</td>
<td>Pg. 93-156</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 4</td>
<td>Pg. 93-156</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Begin Chapter 5 - Timpani</td>
<td>Pg. 157-214</td>
<td>Playing Exam Sign Ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 5 - Timpani</td>
<td>Pg. 157-214</td>
<td>Playing Exam 2; Article Review 2 Due - March 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chapter 9 - Marching Percussion</td>
<td>Pg. 329-424</td>
<td>Cadence Assignment; Written Exam 2 - Mar. 25 Playing Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 9</td>
<td>Pg. 329-424</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chapter 6 - Bass Drums, Cymbals, and Accessories</td>
<td>Pg. 215-252</td>
<td>Cadence Assignment Due - April 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Exams/Assignments/Other</td>
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| 13   | Chapter 8 - Drum Set  
      |       | Pg. 253-293             | Article Review 3 Due - April 17; Distribute music for part assignments - April 17 |
|      | Chapter 10 - Musical Interpretation of Percussion Parts | | |
| 14   | Continue Chapter 10 | Pg. 294-328  
      | Pg. 425-453 | None |
| 15   | Chapter 7 - World Percussion | Pg. 425-453 | Part Assignments Due - May 1st |
|      | Final Exam - May 7, 2014 - 8:00 AM | | |

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is a serious offense. Any student caught participating in academic dishonesty in any way will be disciplined to the fullest extent of institutional policy. For more information on disciplinary action or definitions of academic dishonesty, please see the Student Information and Policies Handbook.

**Accommodations for the Differently-abled**

If you have a disability that affects your academic experience and plan to seek accommodations, it is your responsibility to inform Disability Support Services as soon as possible. Disability Support Services is located in the Learning and Student Development Center (LSDC) in Main Hall. CJ Farnsworth (MH 144) is the ADA representative; she can be reached at 336.8216 or by email at cjfarnsworth@westliberty.edu. It is important to request accommodations early enough to provide adequate time to facilitate your request.
Fundamentals of Percussion Instruments

Required Supplemental Materials

*Practice Pad* - Evans HQ RealFeel 12” Speed Practice Pad

*Snare Drum Sticks* (1 pair)
  - Promark TXSD1W Wood Tip Snare Sticks
  - or
  - *Vic Firth American Custom SD1 Drumsticks*
  - or
  - Innovative Percussion CL1 Chris Lamb Maple Concert Snare Drumsticks

*Marimba Mallets* (1 pair)
  - Innovative Percussion IP813 Mark Ford Medium Hard Marimba Mallets

*Xylophone Mallets* (1 pair)
  - *Innovative Percussion IP902 James Ross Medium Soft Mallets*
  - or
  - Malletech BB34 “Becker Blue” Medium Mallets

*Timpani Mallets* (1 pair)
  - Innovative Percussion General Series GT3 Medium Timpani Mallets

*Stick Bag*
  - *Promark Standard Stick Bag*
  - or
  - Innovative Percussion Fundamental Series Stick Bag

*Drum Key*
  - Yamaha High Tension Drum Key
  - or
  - *Pearl High Tension Drum Key*

*Tuning Fork* (any make, must be A440)

* - denotes most cost effective products.