Texas A&M University-Commerce
Department of Music
Percussion Literature: MUS 352
Summer 2012

Instructor: Dr. Brian Zator
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Purpose:

The Percussion Literature Course is designed to introduce students to the primary percussion solo, ensemble and orchestral literature. Students will gain knowledge, organize lists and locate resources for this music. Through this research, students will be able to classify composers and literature into time periods and stylistic genre. Students will understand a broad history of percussion instruments and be able to formulate time lines of important events in percussion history.

Requirements:

Students are expected to attend every class. Outside reading, weekly assignments and knowledge of the assigned topic will be required. Considerable time will also be devoted to research and organizing solo & ensemble lists. Reference materials will be used from the online textbook, Dr. Zator's lists, the PAS website, publishers websites, percussion databases and books. All students must be members of PAS.

Grading:

Weekly Assignments & Excel sheets: 24% (2% each)
Research Report: 13%
Exams (4 of them): 48% (12% each)
Final Exam: 15%

- Weekly Assignments: Students are required to complete the weekly assignments. They should be typed, printed out and turned into Dr. Zator at the beginning of class.
- Excel sheets: Students are required to complete the database information on the excel sheets. These will be emailed to students the week before the assignment is duet. The completed sheets must be emailed to Dr. Zator by 4:00 pm on the class day. Corrections to your work may or may not be required.
- Research Report: Students are required to complete a paper on a topic of his/her choosing. Topics include specific composers, method books, curriculum plans, percussion genres, etc.
- Exams: All exams will be take-home exams. Dr. Zator will send the exam and link to audio files to students at 5:00 pm on Thursday. They are due, by email to Dr. Zator, before 9:00 am Friday. The Honor system will be used: DO NOT work with any of the other students in the class; exams should be taken individually and not as a group.
- Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will occur on campus during Finals week.

Materials needed:

- "Percussion History and Literature", University of Arizona, written by Dr. Norm Weinberg. Access will be granted through a user ID and password once students pay the $75 access fee.
- PAS Membership
- Computer Software: Microsoft Excel

Recommended Materials:

- Encyclopedia of Percussion, 2nd Edition; Edited by John H. Beck

Music Department Mission Statement:

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Policies:

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5835.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

SCHEDULE

Discuss syllabus & assignment procedures
Module Two:
History of Xylophone
History of Snare Drum
Assignment One

Snare Drum – Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
Excel sheet due

Module Two:
History of Cymbals
History of Bass Drum
History of Timpani
Assignment Two

Timpani – Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
Excel sheet due
Exam One – online (due by midnight on 2/17)

Module Three: Orchestral Literature Segment One
Assignment Three
Research Report Topic proposals due

No Class – WE in New York City
Module Three: Orchestral Literature Segment Two
Assignment Four
Exam Two – online (due by midnight on 3/9)

No Class – Spring Break
Module Six: Multiple Percussion
Multiple Percussion Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
Excel sheet due
Research Report Topic confirmed

Module Six: Marimba
Keyboard Solos on PML (Class I)
Excel sheet due

Keyboard Solos on PML (Class II & III)
Excel sheet due
Exam Three – online (due by midnight on 4/6)

Module Five: Percussion Ensemble Literature Segment One
Assignment Five

Module Five: Percussion Ensemble Literature Segment Two
Assignment Six
Research Reports due

Percussion Ensembles on PML (Class I, II & III)
Excel sheet due
Exam Four – online (due by midnight 4/27)

Review/catch-up

Final Exam-cumulative – online