Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Department of Music  
Percussion Methods: MUS 133-001, Spring 2013  
Monday & Wednesday, 9:00-9:50  

Instructor: Dr. Brian Zator  
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 & 2:30-3:30  
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Purpose:  
The Percussion Methods Course is designed to introduce music majors to basic techniques, instruments, ideologies, and pedagogical approaches to instruments within the percussion family. Students will gain knowledge of how to play & teach each major instrument that will enable him/her to recognize the positive qualities needed by a successful grade school percussion student.

Requirements:  
Students will be required to attend class regularly due to the course’s practical, laboratory approach. A minimal amount of outside reading will be required, but considerable time must be devoted to individual practice. Most equipment will be provided, however, students will assume responsibility for any loss or damage. Refer to the Instrument Contract for more details.

Grading:  
Mid-Term – 20%  
Final Exam – 25%  
Mini-research reports (everyone) – 12% (3% each)  
Performance Exams (wind majors) – 33% (10% each)  
Sight-reading Exams (percussion majors) – 33% (11% each)  
Final Notebook & Concert Critique (wind majors) – 10% (5% each)  
Final Notebook & Extra Research Reports (percussion majors) – 10% (5% each)  
-  Mini-research reports: Students will be required to summarize on-line and library research on several topics throughout the semester. Free, 4-month on-line memberships to the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) will be provided to facilitate much of this requirement.  
-  Performance Exams (wind majors) & Sight-reading Exams (percussion majors): Students will have a playing exam on snare drum, mallets & timpani and will consist of performing a short etude for the instructor in a one-on-one setting.  
-  Final Notebook: Students will be required to organize their notes, hand-outs, warm-ups, etc. according to instrument. A three ring binder with dividers should be used to label and organize each major class of instruments. The notebook will be due on the Final Exam date. Additional requirements will be detailed throughout the semester.  
-  Concert Critique (wind majors): Students will be required to attend ONE of the spring percussion ensemble concerts and write a one-page critique (single-spaced, 12-point Times font, 1” margins all the way around). The concerts are on Monday, March 4th at 7:30 pm and Thursday, April 11th at 7:30 pm. Critiques are due the Monday after the concert.
- Research Reports (percussion majors): Several percussion pedagogy and history topics will be assigned throughout the semester.

**Materials needed:**
- Each student will be responsible for purchasing the following:
  1. One pair of Innovative Percussion IP-LD (or equivalent) concert snare drum sticks
  2. Textbook: *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* by Kennan Wylie
  3. On-line download: “2-mallet & 4-mallet Play-Along Exercises” by Brian Zator
- Each wind major student will have the following equipment checked out to them:
  1. Practice pad
  2. Practice pad stand
  3. Timpani mallets
  4. Keyboard mallets
  5. Stick pouch

**Student Learning Objectives:**
Upon the completion of the “Instrumental Methods” course sequence (MUS 133: Percussion, Woodwind & Brass), the student will understand and be able to demonstrate the following:
1. Perform at a beginning level on all instruments required in each class.
2. The fingerings of the major woodwind and brass instruments.
3. The stickings and techniques of the major percussion instruments.
4. Discuss the technical aspects of tone production, posture and sound quality on all major instruments.
5. Discuss the major texts used for beginning methods of all instruments.
6. Be able to correctly analyze and diagnose problems associated with someone else playing the major instruments.

**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 with Disabilities:*
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services; StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148

*Student Conduct*
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

January
14   Introduction: discuss syllabus, requirements, checkout materials, etc.
     Play: S.D. Technique

16   Snare Drum – Technique & Eighth notes
     Read: pp. ii-vii, Step 1-5, Checkpoint A
     Play: S.D. Warm-Ups #1-2; Step 3, 5, & Checkpoint A

23   Snare Drum – Technique & Sixteenth notes sticking patterns
     Read: Step 6-9, Checkpoint B
     Play: S.D. Warm-Ups #1-3; Jeff Queen 10-min – Check Patterns: 2-note groupings;
          Step 7 & 9

28   Snare Drum – Double/Triple/Quadruple Strokes
     Play: S.D. Warm-Ups #1-3; Jeff Queen 10-min – Double/Triple/Quadruple;
          Checkpoint B

30   Snare Drum – Open-Stroke Rolls (Rudimental Style)
     Read: Step 10-13, Checkpoint C
     Play: S.D. Warm-Ups #5-9; Step 10-13 & Checkpoint C

February
4    Bass Drum / Snare Drum – Closed/Buzz Rolls (Concert Style)
     Read: Step 16a / Step 14
     Play: Bass Drum Exercise Handouts; Step 16a;
          S.D. Warm-Ups #1-3 & #5-9; Step 14

6    Snare Drum – Accents: Down & Up Strokes
     Read: Step 15 & 16
     Play: S.D. Warm-Ups #1-4 & #10-11; Bachcent; Jeff Queen 10-min – 16th 1 Accent;
          Step 15 & 16

11   Snare Drum – Flams & PAS Rudiments
     Read: Step 17 & 18
     Play: S.D. Warm-Ups #12-13; Step 17 & 18; PAS Rudiments
     Mini-Research Report Due: Discuss the history and importance of the PAS Rudiments
        a. Why are rudiments important?
        b. When and who codified the first rudiments?
        c. How many rudiments when first developed?
        d. How many rudiments are there now?
        e. What are the four categories of rudiments?

13   No Class – Wind Ensemble on TMEA Trip
18 Timpani – General Playing Technique  
**Read:** Step 10a & 11a  
**Play:** Step 10a & 11a

20 Timpani – Tuning & Muffling  
**Read:** Step 12a  
**Play:** Step 12a

**Week of February 25th: Timpani performance exam**

25 Timpani – Rolls & Review Technique  
**Read:** Step 13a  
**Play:** Step 13a; p. 39a

27 Triangle & Tambourine  
**Read:** Triangle-Step 17a; Tambourine-Step 18a  
**Play:** 17a & 18a; Triangle and Tambourine Exercise Handouts

**March**

4 Castanets & Small Wood instruments / Mid-Term Review  
**Read:** Castanets & Small Wood instruments Handouts  
**Play:** Etude for Small Wooden Instruments (Learn all parts); Review for mid-term

6 **Written Mid-Term Exam**

11-15 **Spring Break**

18 Drum-set  
**Read:** Step 25a  
**Play:** Step 25a

20 World percussion & Steel Drums  
**Read:** Misc. Handouts  
**Play:** Etude for Latin Instruments (Learn all parts)  
**Mini-Research Report Due:** Research and discuss the importance and contributions of these drum-set artists:  
  a. Gene Krupa  
  b. Buddy Rich  
  c. Tony Williams  
  d. Steve Gadd  
  e. Neal Peart
25 Drumline

**Play:** TAMU-C Drumline Warm-Ups – look at all instruments

- “8” on a hand
- Accent-tap
- 4-Grid

27 Drumline

**Play:** TAMU-C Drumline Warm-Ups – look at all instruments

- “8” on a hand
- Accent-tap
- 4-Grid
- Double/Triple/Quad
- Chicken and a Roll

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**April**

1 Marimba & Xylophone (2 mallets)

**Read:** pp. viii-xv; Step 1a-4a

**Play:** Dr. Zator’s “Play-along exercises” 2-mallet packet (Keys of C, F, Bb, & G):

- Basics (Scales, Green, Thirds, Arpeggios) ¼=90 – playing 1/8th-notes;
- Wylie book: Step 3a & 4a

3 Marimba & Xylophone (2 mallets)

**Read:** Step 5a, 6a, & Checkpoint A1

**Play:** Dr. Zator’s “Play-along exercises” packet (Keys of C, F, Bb, & G):

- Basics (Scales, Green, Thirds, Arpeggios) ¼=90 – playing 1/8th-notes, Double
- Stops (1a, 2a, 2b) ¼-80;
- Wylie book: Step 5a & 6a

8 Vibraphone, Bells & Chimes

**Read:** Step 7a-9a, Checkpoint B1 & C1

**Play:** Checkpoint B1; p. 38a

**Mini-Research Report Due:** Research and discuss the importance and contributions of these keyboard artists:

- George Hamilton Green
- Clair Omar Musser
- J.C. Deagan
- Keiko Abe
- Leigh Howard Stevens
- Gary Burton

10 Review Mallet instruments, Snare Drum, Timpani, & Drum-set

**Play:** Checkpoint C & C1 (learn all parts; drum-set will be added to each etude. Etude #1 will be in a swing-style)

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*Week of April 15th: Mallet performance exam – p. 49a*
15 Marimba (4 mallets)
   **Play:** Dr. Zator’s “Play-along exercises” 4-mallet packet (Key of C only):
   Double Verticals: Stationary Intervals pg.1 & Beginners Interval Changes pg. 5
   Single Alternating: Stationary Intervals pg.1 & Beginners Interval Changes pg. 5
   Single Independent – each mallet playing the C scale two octaves
   (no play-along track needed for this)

17 Cymbals / Resonant Metal instruments
   **Read:** Cymbals-Step 15a; Resonant Metal instruments Handouts
   **Play:** Step 15a, Cymbals Exercises Handouts

22 Instrument selection & organizing percussion sections
   **Read:** Misc. handouts
   **Mini-Research Report Due:**
   1. Make a list of the top three instrument manufacturers in each of these
categories: marimbas, xylophones, vibraphones, snare drums, timpani,
marching equipment
   2. Make a list of the top five stick & mallet manufacturers
   3. Provide web-site addresses for ALL listed companies

24 Care & maintenance
   **Read:** Misc. handouts

29 Percussion resources and ensemble rehearsal
   **Read:** Misc. handouts

**May**

1 Percussion Literature / Final Exam Review
   **Read:** Misc. handouts & PML lists
   **Assignment:** Study snare drum, keyboard, timpani, multiple percussion and
   percussion ensemble lists; Review for Final Exam

**TBA**  Written Final Exam – cumulative
   Final Notebooks due at this time