# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - COMMERCE
# DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

# PERCUSSION SYLLABUS

FOR APPLIED PERCUSSION LESSONS
(Lower Division 149, 151, 152,
Upper Division 352, & Graduate 551, 552)

**Instructor: Dr. Brian Zator, Director of Percussion**
**Room 128, Phone: (903) 886-5299**
**Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 & Friday 1:30-3:30**
**Brian.Zator@tamuc.edu**

**Instructor: Mr. JJ Pipitone, Adjunct Instructor of Percussion**
**Phone: (972) 249-8380**
**Office Hours: By Appointment**
**jj.pipitone@gmail.com**

***Student Learning Objectives***

*These are listed on individual instrument curriculum sheets. Overall, upon completion of the percussion curriculum students will:*

1) Snare Drum: Play all 40 *Percussive Arts Society Standard Rudiments;* Play a concert and rudimental snare drum roll; Play a concert snare drum etude using appropriate stickings, stroke types, embellishments, dynamics, playing areas and musicianship; Identify and perform important snare drum orchestral excerpts.
2) Keyboard: Play all major/minor (natural, harmonic & melodic) scales and arpeggios for three octaves; Play two-mallet and four-mallet etudes using appropriate stickings, stroke-types, dynamics, mallet choices and musicianship; Perform a four-mallet solo using appropriate stickings, stroke-types, dynamics, mallet choices and musicianship; Identify and perform important keyboard (xylophone and orchestra bells) orchestral excerpts.
3) Timpani: Demonstrate tuning and knowledge of the sizes and ranges of a standard set of five timpani; Play etudes using two, three and four drums using appropriate stroke types, stickings, pedalings, tunings, roll speeds, muffling, mallet choices and musicianship; Perform a timpani solo using proper stroke types, stickings, pedalings, tunings, roll speeds, muffling, mallet choices and musicianship; Identify and perform important timpani orchestral excerpts.
4) Drumset: Play with proper coordination between all four limbs; Perform exercises with two, four, eight, and sixteen bar phrases; Play different styles including rock, funk, jazz and Latin; Apply exercises and styles to play-along music.

*These objectives will be measured by:*

Student critiques in studio class, juries, midterm video assignment, summative barrier exam, recital (music majors on primary instrument)

***University Mission Statement***

*Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.*

***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.*

# *"…Increase an awareness of the present and establish goals so changes become effortless and easy." Barry Green*

**Applied Percussion Lessons**

The Percussion Curriculum will be used for all applied lesson students in Lower and Upper Divisions in all degree programs including the Graduate level. Students will be placed in specific levels, according to their needs and will have twelve lessons throughout the semester. Each level has specific goals that students will be working to achieve in addition to any personal goals each student might have. Lessons will be divided up into two thirty-minute halves, each focusing on one instrument (i.e. keyboard and snare drum). It is the student's responsibility to prepare materials listed in the Curriculum according to their level of study and lesson week. Materials performed in lessons will be chosen at random from each assignment. Additional material may be assigned, according to the individual needs of each student.

**Attendance**

Attendance at every lesson is mandatory. Students must give advanced notice if a lesson will be missed. In this case, the lesson can be re-scheduled. If no advance notice is given, the lesson will result in a "0" for that lesson. If you know you will be missing a lesson, call Dr. Zator at 886-5299 or your respective instructor **BEFORE YOUR LESSON TIME** to explain the situation. If Dr. Zator or your instructor is unavailable, please leave a message, call the Music office at 886-5304, or leave a note on Dr. Zator's bulletin board. If the instructor misses with or without advanced notice, the lesson will be made up.

All students are allowed one "freebie" lesson. Students can take off one lesson without being penalized. Students will then move to the next week's curriculum. Instructors can also adjust the lesson curriculum, if needed. Contact Dr. Zator or your respective instructor in advance of missing this lesson. If no contact is made BEFORE your lesson time, that lesson week will receive a grade of "0" and not provided a freebie or make-up time. The second and further excused or unexcused absences will receive a grade of "0".

**Grading**

Grading is determined by weekly preparation (40%), mid-term assignment (10%), jury performance (30%), percussion area recital or studio class performances (10%), and program notes (10%). A high level of weekly preparation is expected for every lesson. This preparation will be recorded each week and will account for your weekly preparation average.

**Mid-term Barriers Video Assignment**

At the mid-term point of the semester, every student will have a video performance assignment. Students will be required to videotape selected barrier materials and submit them for private viewing through a private website link. Specific details of performance materials will be outlined for each student, according to their lesson plans.

Completion of the assignment will count towards the mid-term assignment. Performance evaluations will apply to passing or non-passing of those barrier materials. Students who fail this barrier performance may be able to re-play these materials during their final barrier time slot.

**Juries**

Students are responsible for performing a jury piece for each instrument they are studying during that semester. Each piece will be assigned or approved by the instructor, then prepared over the course of the semester. Each student will then perform both jury pieces for a panel of faculty/staff members. A grade will be

given for this performance and factored into the final grade. *You will NOT be able to perform your jury if you do not have the original score at the jury performance.*

**Performances**

In addition to the final jury, all students must perform as a soloist, or duo, on at least TWO Percussion Area Recitals, Studio Class or Departmental Convocations for a grade (unless excused by the instructor). These performances account for 10% of your final grade. This percentage may change according to the individual and the performance on a joint or solo recital.

**Program Notes**

All students, regardless of level, will be responsible for writing program notes for each of their jury pieces. Using resources from PAS, the library, message boards, and forums will assist students in finding information about the piece, composer, etc. Necessary information include composer dates, composition date, premiere performances, dedications and general historical information about the work and composer. Each report needs to be at least a ½ page with 12-point Times font, single spaced. Document all sources in whatever format you wish (MLA, Turabian, etc.). These reports are due at your jury. Those performing a recital are required to write program notes for all their pieces.

**Sight-Reading**

All students, regardless of level, will take a sight-reading mid-term and final exam. The exam will include sight-reading one short etude. This grade will be factored into the applied lesson average as the 13th and 14th grades. The exam will take place at the beginning of the appropriate lesson (approximately week six and the last lesson of the semester).

To facilitate preparation, students will be expected to practice sight-reading for a minimum of 10 minutes a day. Students are encouraged to use their own materials or check-out books from the library. As a general rule, but very important for sight-reading skills, DO NOT put this off until the last minute; form a habit of doing this every day.

**Final Barriers**

At the end of each semester, all students must pass a "barrier exam" covering the material from the Percussion Curriculum. Selections from the weekly assignments will be chosen from random and the student must show a thorough knowledge of the material. All barrier materials will be graded pass or fail, but not included in the final lesson grade. If a student fails the barrier exam, the level must be repeated. If a student fails a level three times, that student will not be allowed to continue the music major degree at TAMU-C.

Students will be required to play and pass off all 48 scales (12 major, natural minor, harmonic minor & melodic minor) by the end of their sophomore year. (See lower/upper division section below for additional details.) This is accomplished by passing off the scales required in lessons during the barrier exam.

**Lower/Upper Division Applied Percussion Lessons (152, 352)**

All new students (freshman and transfers) will take lower division lessons (152). After completing level II on snare drum, level III on keyboard (which includes passing off all 48 scales), level I on timpani, level I on drumset, and writing a short percussion-related research paper, students may then take upper division lessons (352). These lower division requirements must be met by the end of the 4th semester of study (2nd semester for transfers). A one long semester grace period is allowed, but if these requirements are not met by the given deadline, one will not be allowed to continue the music major degree at TAMU-C.

**Practice:** ***"I never practice, I always play." Wanda Landowska***

Minimum daily practice time should equal the credit amount of the lesson (i.e. two credit lesson = two hours a day of practice). Daily practice is essential for musical and technical growth and advancement.

**Practice Logs**

All students are encouraged to bring their practice logs to each lesson. These logs will document your practice times for the previous week and proposed times for the upcoming week. Although Dr. Zator writes

down pertinent information on two pages (one for him and one for you), your personal logs can also be used to record questions you might have and could ask at your lesson. Add any other information to your own lesson notebook as soon as the lesson is over. Use this material and organizational tool to help you better prepare for your next lesson and your barrier and jury performances.

**Recitals**

Music Education majors are required to perform one 1/2 recital during their senior year. Additional recitals (i.e. Junior, Special, Joint or full recital) may be performed, but must be with the approval of the instructor. This will be on an individual basis. Those performing recitals will not be required to perform a jury, but will need to perform in studio class. Grading will be adjusted to the following: weekly preparation (50%), mid-term assignment (10%), recital performance (30%), and program notes on recital pieces (10%). If one is performing a recital and studying a barrier instrument, the jury and studio class performances will be required on that particular instrument. Grading will be adjusted to the following: weekly preparation (45%), midterm assignment, (10%), recital (25%), jury (10%), and research report on recital and jury pieces (10%).

Students performing a recital must play a hearing of all their pieces no less than 10 days prior to their recital date. Pieces not passing the hearing will either be taken off the recital or given a few more days of preparation and heard once again. Depending on the hearing, the recital can be completely cancelled if the music is not at a performance level for the hearing.

**Percussion Studio Class, Area Recitals, and Masterclasses Attendance**

All percussion majors taking 152, 352 and 552 applied lessons are required to attend ALL studio classes, area recitals, percussion masterclasses, and percussion student recitals unless otherwise instructed by Dr. Zator. Advance notice will be given for all such events. Those missing any of these activities without giving advanced notice to Dr. Zator will have 5 points taken off their weekly preparation average for every missed event.

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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.)*

**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**
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**
**Gee Library**
**Room 132**
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**
**Fax (903) 468-8148**
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu