Texas A&M University – Commerce
Department of Music
Percussion Ensemble I, II, III/Steel Band Syllabus
MUS 100P, 300P and MUS 589 (Performance Practice in Perc. Ens.)

Fall 2014 – Dr. Brian Zator, Director
Brian.Zator@tamuc.edu
(903) 886-5299 – Room 128
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 & Friday 1:30-3:30

P.E. I: Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 - 4:50 pm
P.E. II: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:00 am – 11:50 am
P.E. III: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm
Steel Band: Wednesday 5:00 – 6:00 pm & TBA

Purpose

The purpose of percussion ensemble is to provide percussion students an opportunity to perform in professional level ensembles focusing on various styles of music and types of ensemble settings. Repertoire will consist of popular, historical, world, contemporary, and traditional musical styles. Students will also participate in ensembles ranging is size from 3 to 12+ players in a group.

World music will be a primary focus in the Steel Drum Band and occasionally in the contemporary percussion ensemble. Members of the steel band will also be responsible for improvisation solos over basic chord progressions in various styles.

All ensembles have a goal of "***Preparing Students for an Interconnected World***".

Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the students will:

1) Exhibit accurate individual, sectional and ensemble intonation and rhythm along with fundamental and advanced instrumental techniques while performing a varied repertoire of music within the ensemble;
2) Perform expressively a varied repertoire of music representing styles and diverse cultures within the ensemble;
3) Utilize standard musical terminology to describe intervals, music notation, chord structure, rhythm/meter, harmonic texture, form, and music symbols and terms referring to dynamics, tempo, and articulation;
4) Utilize problem-solving skills to identify and correct problems with pitch, rhythm/meter, articulation, phrasing, and dynamics within a rehearsal setting.
5) Be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

As measured by:

Performances, sectional exams, and performance recording critiques

Rehearsals

Students will have opportunities to perform in ensembles of varying sizes, instrumentations and personnel. Rehearsals will give students the opportunity to listen for ensemble balance, articulation, timing and other general ensemble considerations. Students are

expected to have their music prepared prior to rehearsal. Please check the bulletin board by room 128 for the rehearsal schedule.

Additional rehearsals (dress rehearsal) may be scheduled, depending on the upcoming performance. Advanced notice will be given via the bulletin board and/or announcements at rehearsals.

Sectionals

Sectionals might be scheduled outside of the regular rehearsal times or during regular class times. If they are scheduled outside of class, advance notice and confirmation will be required of the instructor and students. Student-run sectionals can be scheduled at any time and are encouraged for individuals needing additional ensemble assistance.

Grading

Each student's grade will be based on their preparation of his/her assigned parts during rehearsals and attendance.

Rehearsal Preparation:

As discussed and agreed upon by you, the students, the following grading will be adhered to for percussion ensemble AND steel band rehearsals. Failure to reach these standards will result in lowered daily grades.

First rehearsal:

1. Students should know, and be able to play, all the notes and rhythms at 50-75% of the written tempo
2. All multiple percussion set-ups should be defined and worked out in advance, even though it could change throughout the semester
3. Students should know the road map of the piece including any repeats, D.S., etc.
4. Measure numbers will be written in
5. Stickings, accidentals, personal notes written in
6. Students should have all copies and page turns worked out
7. Students should understand all terms used in the piece
8. Dynamics should be learned at 50%

Halfway through semester:

1. Students should know, and be able to play, all the notes and rhythms at 75-90% of the written tempo
2. Students should know, and be able to play, all dynamics
3. Rehearsals will focus on ensemble cohesion, balance, details, etc.
4. Students should be able to play their part well enough to think about performance presence
5. Students will be bringing stick bag to rehearsal to work on mallet selections

One week before performance:

1. Students should be able to perform piece individually and with the ensemble at the written tempo

Attendance:

Each student must submit any absence request at least **one week in advance**, except for emergencies, by **e-mailing** Dr. Zator.

Attendance: missing 2 rehearsals – drop one letter grade
missing 3 rehearsals – drop two letter grades
missing 1 rehearsal not following procedure – drop one letter grade

missing 2 rehearsals not following procedure – drop two letter grades
missing any dress rehearsal or performance – grade of F

Concert Attire

All members of the Percussion Ensemble will wear black shoes, black socks, black pants, black belt, and a long-sleeve, button down, colored shirt with a collar.

Steel band members will wear a Hawaiian shirt, white t-shirt, and either khaki pants or khaki shorts, depending on the weather.

Calendar of Events

Friday, Sept. 26th, 4-7	Panimation performance at Bois d'Arc Bash
Sunday, Sept. 28th, 2:30-7	Panimation performance at City Park
Sunday, Nov. 2nd, Evening	PE I & Panimation Dress Rehearsal
Monday, Nov. 3rd, 7:30	PE I & Panimation Concert
Sunday, Nov. 9th, Evening	PE II & III Dress Rehearsal
Monday, Nov. 10th, 7:30	PE II & III Concert

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 Mission Statement

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

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

Student Behavior

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.)*