



INSTRUMENTS for ELEMENTARY MUSIC

MUS 321.001

Darla Meek, Instructor

T/TH 8:00-8:50

Office: Music Building, Room 222

Classroom: Room 211

Spring 2015

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Monday and Friday by appointment

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.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide prospective elementary general music teachers with the skills necessary to teach lessons using recorder, barred instruments, body percussion, and unpitched percussion. Students will also be able to accompany songs with the guitar and dulcimer. Because of the emphasis on multicultural music, students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

Course Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

- demonstrate correct playing technique for all barred instruments, unpitched instruments, soprano and alto recorder, including all material presented in class.
- demonstrate the ability to use four levels of body percussion as sound color, as ostinati, and as preparation for instrumental parts.
- be able to sing simple American folk songs with up to three chords while accompanying him/herself on the guitar.
- be able to play simple Appalachian folk songs on a dulcimer while reading notation.
- be able to accompany African pieces with the djembe, tubano and ngomo, Middle Eastern pieces with the doumbek, and Polynesian pieces with the ukulele.
- demonstrate melodic competency through instrumental and vocal improvisation in both **do** and **la** pentatonic scales.
- have developed an understanding of and be able to successfully engage children in playing instruments, listening, chanting, singing, and reading notation for music from diverse cultures.
- be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world because of their experiences with music and dance from a variety of cultures.
- demonstrate an understanding of logical, sequential teaching process using all media.
- have arranged a pentatonic folk song for barred instruments and unpitched percussion.
- develop appropriate classroom management techniques regarding the use and care of instruments.

Required Texts

- Burakoff, Gerald & Hettrick, William E. (1980) *The Sweet Pipes Recorder Book*. (Book One, Soprano) Sweet Pipes, Inc. (6722 Brentwood Stair, Ft. Worth, TX 76112) \$6.50
- Burakoff, Gerald & Hettrick, William E. (1980) *The Sweet Pipes Recorder Book*. (Book Two, Alto) Sweet Pipes, Inc. (6722 Brentwood Stair, Ft. Worth, TX 76112) \$6.50
- *Mel Bay Modern Guitar Method Grade 1, Expanded Edition* (Book/CD/DVD Set) by Mel Bay & William Bay (spiral bound) \$17.99
- Keetman, Gunild. *Rhythmische Ubung*. Schott. \$10.95

Required Materials

- One Yamaha YRS-24B Soprano Recorder (ivory plastic)
- One alto recorder (There are some available for checkout.)
- One acoustic guitar and pick (There are some available for checkout.)
- Dulcimer, or dulcimer kit (There are some available for checkout.)

- Notebook for organizing your handouts. You are to prepare ELEVEN DIVIDERS: Syllabus and Class Agendas, Graded Assignments and Tests, Body Percussion, Unpitched Percussion, Drumming, Barred Instruments, Recorder, Dulcimer, Guitar, Ukelele, Boomwhackers.

Students Requesting Accommodations Due to 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

Musician Health and Safety

Valuable information and resources are provided on the Music Education website to assist the musician in the prevention of injury and to provide a resource for discovering information about injury assessment and injury recovery.

For more information, go here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/music/musicianHealthSafety.aspx>

Quality Enhancement Plan

This course has been accepted as a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Global Course. The overarching objective of the QEP is **Preparing Students for an Interconnected World** by increasing students' knowledge of global dynamics, their ability to apply that knowledge, as well as their understanding of their role as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

Students will be required to upload a graded artifact to their ePortfolios. This artifact will be a lesson plan for an authentic folk song from another country.

For more information, go here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/institutionalEffectiveness/qualityEnhancementPlan/default.aspx>

Attendance Policy

It is expected that, as future teachers, education students model professional behavior by arriving to every class on time, with instruments tuned and assignments completed.

Each class period, an attendance count will be taken. Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work. **Due to its performance nature, CLASS WORK CANNOT BE MADE UP. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than four classes.** If absences are accumulated after the drop date, the student will receive a failing grade. Tardiness or leaving early will affect the daily classwork grade. Arriving with instruments untuned will result in a lowered classwork grade.

Students who miss a class when an assignment is due are expected to email the homework assignment in Word format as an attachment to an email to the instructor by 11:59 p.m. **on the due date**, with this subject line: MUSIC 321, Assignment #_, Student Name, Due Date. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to retrieve the information you missed, and to prepare your assignments, if any, for the following class. Handouts will be placed in a container outside my office.

In-class assessments and assignments missed because of absence cannot be made up. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please do not ask me to make an exception.

Classroom Expectations

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

All students are expected to follow the Tenets of Common Decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. These tenets are outlined in the *Student's Guide Handbook* under "Policies and Procedures: Conduct." The tenets also apply to all communication to me outside the classroom.

Please demonstrate commitment to your course of study by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, turning in assignments in a timely manner, being prompt and dependable, supporting your peers and the instructor, and accepting critiques

graciously. All students are expected to practice faithfully several times each week so that growth between class meetings is evident.

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins, and should be concealed from view throughout the duration of the class period. Please take care of any necessities (food, drink, restroom) before coming to class so that we may proceed without interruption. If you need to bring a bottle of water, please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins.

Arrive to the classroom ready to begin playing. Your instrument should be tuned and ready to play by 8:00.

In this course, you will be very active...singing, moving, playing instruments, dancing, improvising, and more. All students are to be actively participating in each lesson, just as your students will be when you are teaching in a public or private school. Please wear comfortable but modest clothing in which you can move around easily.

Please be careful with our classroom materials, and use them only when instructed.

Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered classwork grade.

Borrowing Materials

You have free access to all my personal books, CDs, and teaching materials. Several of these items will be placed under reserve in the library. These items are for use in the library only. Simply present your student ID card at the front desk.

If you would like to borrow a resource overnight that I keep in my office, simply sign the **Resource Checkout** book in my office. Since other students may need the same item, please return any item you borrow the following class session. **You must not lend any items checked out to any other individual. You yourself must check them back in by writing the date and your initials in the resource checkout notebook.**

Please take care that you observe the copyright laws, and the limits of fair use.

You may check out instruments to use this semester by filling out a contract in my office. Please keep the instrument in its case when not in use. It is expected that you will use extreme care with any instrument you check out. Instruments are to be returned in excellent condition with all parts and extra materials intact.

If a resource or instrument checked out to you is lost or damaged, you are expected to replace it as soon as possible. If you fail to return the item before the end of the

semester, **a hold will be placed on your account and you will receive an Incomplete for this course.**

Assignments

All written work must be typewritten. Assignments that require music notation may be neatly printed, though notation software is preferred. Please use university-level spelling, punctuation, and grammar, and head your papers with your name, the assignment number, and the due date. Students are expected to print out their own homework and turn it in during class. Asking the instructor to print out your assignment for you will result in a reduction of 20 points.

Whether or not a written assignment is due, students are expected to schedule a consistent practice time at least five days out of the seven each week.

Gathering Resources

For this course you will continue to gather a collection of activities for children using instruments. This will be a valuable resource for you as you begin teaching, one that you will continue through your career.

You are expected to keep your notebook organized at all times, and to bring it to each class meeting. A "Notebook Check" will be provided. Get into the habit of placing your agenda and handouts in their proper places as soon as they are given to you.

Grading System

In-Class Performance, Teaching, and Discussion: 40% of total grade

Assessments: 40%

Homework Assignments: 10%

Notebook: 10%

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

59 ↓ = F

Academic Honesty

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to

reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

NOTICE!

- Each class period, I will distribute the outline for that day's class and any assignments that will be due the following class.
- Students are encouraged to seek out the instructor for assignment clarification and/or personal assistance.
- You can receive extra points for attending and actively participating in workshops with elementary emphasis, such as those provided by the North Texas Chapter of AOSA, the Kodaly Educators of Texas, and TMEA. You are REQUIRED to attend one of the three offerings by the local organizations.
- You are REQUIRED to attend the Music Education Convocations. These will be held on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00.
- Keep in mind that your aptitude in this course may determine if you are approved for student teaching. Because student teachers are representatives of this university, I will only recommend those with excellent teaching skills, musicianship, high standards, and a strong work ethic. This could determine your graduation date.
- This syllabus is subject to be amended at any time.

PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2015

WEEK 1	body percussion
WEEK 2	unpitched percussion
WEEK 3	hand drumming
WEEK 4	African drumming
WEEK 5	soprano recorder
WEEK 6	barred instruments
WEEK 7	dulcimer/Appalachian folk
WEEK 8	soprano recorder
WEEK 9	guitar (D, A7)
WEEK 10	Middle Eastern drumming
WEEK 11	guitar (G)
WEEK 12	alto recorder/Asian music
WEEK 13	guitar (D7)
WEEK 14	ukelele/Polynesian music
WEEK 15	guitar (C)
WEEK 16	Boomwhackers

