Texas A&M University – Commerce
Department of Music
Percussion Ensemble I & II/Steel Band/ Syllabus
MUS 100P & 300P – 012/013 and
MUS 589 (Performance Practice in Perc. Ens.)

Spring 2015 – Dr. Brian Zator, Director
Kaylie Hardeman, Assistant 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 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
P.E. II: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Steel Band: Monday & Wednesday 5:00-6:00 pm

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.

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) Students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected
and diverse world.

As measured by:
Performances, quartet or 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 & Brazilian 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.

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Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 1st, 6:00  PE I, II, Steel Bands Dress Rehearsal
Monday, March 2nd, 7:30  PE I, II, Steel Bands 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@tamu-commerce.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.)