Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Department of Music  
Percussion Methods: MUS 133.003, Spring 2015  
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30-10:20

Instructors: Kevin Luken (502) 338-7529  
E-mail: kevin.luken@yahoo.com  
Office Hours: By Appointment

Purpose:  
The Percussion Methods Course is designed to introduce music majors to basic techniques and fundamentals, instruments, ideologies, and pedagogical approaches to instruments within the percussion family. Students will gain knowledge of how to play & teach the major percussion instruments you will be dealing with in the typical public school band program.

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:  
Attendance is expected. Your final grade will be lowered one whole letter for each absence after two, excused or unexcused.  
Mid-Term – 19%  
Final Exam – 20%  
Research Projects – 18% (6% each)  
Performance Exams – 33% (11% each)  
Final Notebook & Concert Critique – 10% (5% each)  
- Research Projects: Students will be required to prepare various projects on different percussion topics throughout the semester. Free, 4-month on-line memberships to the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) will be provided to facilitate part of this requirement.  
- Performance Exams: Students will have a playing exam on snare drum, mallets & timpani that 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 2nd at 7:30 pm and Thursday, April 9th at 7:30 pm. Critiques are due the Monday after the concert.

Materials needed:  
- Each student will be responsible for purchasing the following:
1. One pair of Vic Firth SD1-General or Innovative Percussion IP-KW concert snare drum sticks. These can be purchased at www.lonestarpercussion.com.
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 sticking’s 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, Gee Library, Room 132
(903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 phone
(903) 468-8148 fax
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

**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

20  Introduction: discuss syllabus, requirements, checkout materials, etc. Discussion of textbook and www.mwpublications.com/, class procedure and playing tests Drop Box- Let’s get hooked up

22  Snare Drum – Parts of Hand, Stick, Grip, Hand Position, Legato and Staccato Strokes, 8 on a hand, Bucks
  Read: Handouts
  Play: 8 on a hand, Bucks

27  Snare Drum – Sticking systems (R hand Lead, R and L hand alternating), Buzz Rolls
  Read: Handouts
  Play: Wessels: Lesson 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 17

29  Snare Drum – Double stroke Production, read, write, recognize rolls, roll rudiments
  Play: Handouts, Wessels: Lesson 11, 12, 13

February

3   Snare Drum – Paradiddle Family of Rudiments, Ruff and flam family of Rudiments
  Read: Lalo P. 2, 3
  Play: Lalo P. 35

5   Review of Beginning Method Books: Wessels vs. Wylie
Solo Literature: Wylie- 20 solos, Davila- Contemporary Rudimental Studies
The well Rounded percussion program: Month by Month Calendar

10  Percussion Literature: Ensembles
   6th grade
   7th/8th grade
   9th/10th grade
   11th/12th grade

*Launch Research Project 1: Percussion Ensemble Concert program. The student will make a program for a percussion ensemble concert. On the Program will be a 6th grade beginning percussion piece (10 Players), 1 7th grade piece (7/8 players), 1 8th grade pieces (7/8 Players), Intermission, HS Percussion ensemble: 9th/10th graders (8-10 players), 11th/12th graders (8-10 players), Novelty Piece (15 players), Something different (Wildcard), Big Closer that involves everyone (20-25 Players). The program should be one piece of paper only with the Work and Composer.

12  TMEA - No Class

Week of February 17th: Snare Drum performance exam – Middle School All Region Etude
Timpani – History, Pitches of the Drums, General Playing Technique, Tuning & Muffling

**Read:** Mitchell Peters P. 6-23

**Play:** All Region Middle School Timpani etude

Timpani – **Play:** Review All Region Middle School etude
Review Timpani Solo Lit- Mitchell Peters Fundamental Method, Vic Firth The Solo Timpanist

*Research Project 1 Due*

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<th>Week of February 24th: Timpani performance exam Middle School All Region Etude</th>
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<td><strong>24</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Wylie Book Introductory material and 1a – 5a</td>
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<td><strong>Play:</strong> Major Scales with scale rhythm and sticking; Wyle P. 17a</td>
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**Important Artists and Suggested Listening:** Clair Omar Musser, J.C. Deagan, Keiko Abe, Leigh Howard Stevens, She-E Wu, Brian Zator, Mark Ford, Michael Burritt

| **26** | Discussion of Vibraphone |
| **Play:** Scales; Wessels #47, 63; Middle School all Region Etude |

**Important Artists and Suggested Listening:** Lionel Hampton, Bill Molenof, Dave Samuels, Gary Burton

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<td><strong>Play:</strong> Scales; Middle School All Region Etude</td>
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**Xylophone Artists You Should Know/Suggested Listening:** Bob Becker, Nexus: Ragtime Concert. George Hamilton Green

| **5** | Discussion of Solo Keyboard Literature |
|---|
| **10** | Mid-Term Review |

**12** **Written Mid-Term Exam**

*16-20 Spring Break!!!*

| **24** | Drumstick/Drum Head Manufacturers |
|---|
| What to look for in a drumstick |
| What sticks should you use on each instrument- Indoor vs. outdoor |
| Vic Firth/Innovative Web sites |
| What to look for in a Drumhead- Indoor vs. Outdoor |
| Remo/Evans Web Sites |
Launch Research Project 2: Make a list using an excel spreadsheet of all of the yearly expenses you will need for your middle school or high school percussion program.

26 World percussion as it relates to the middle school/high school percussion program: Congas, Bongos, Congas, Cowbell, Jam Block, Castanettes, Timbales, Guiro, Shakers, Maracas
Read: Wylie #19a, 20a, 21a
Play: Etude for Latin Instruments (Learn all parts)

31 Concert Accessories: Concert Bass, Concert Toms, Triangle, Tambourine, Woodblock, Whip Crack, Temple Blocks, Sleigh Bells
Read: Wylie #14a, 16a, 17a, 18a, 23a
Play: Provided Etudes

April

Week of April 2nd: Mallet performance exam: Middle School All Region Etude

2 World/Concert Continued
World/Concert Instruments and Manufacturers
Common/Appropriate Substitutions
*Research Project 2 Due

7 Crash Cymbals, Ride Cymbals, Suspended Cymbals, Finger Cymbals, Hand Cymbals, Crotales
Read: Wylie #15a
Play: Provided Etudes in Wyle
Cymbal Manufacturers: Zildjian/Sabian Websites

9 Drum/Keyboard Manufacturers:
What to look for in a drum company
What to look for in a Keyboard company
Indoor (Concert) vs. Outdoor (Marching) Drums and Keyboards
Yamaha, Pearl, Dynasty Web Sites

Launch Research Project 3: Using the Lone Star Percussion Web Site, outfit a new high school with percussion equipment. Include drumline and Concert.

14 Drumline: Instrumentation – Snares, Quads, Basses, Cymbals, Front Ensemble and set up, Marching Techniques
Read: Handouts

16 Drumline: The 5 key exercises you need to play with your drumline
Play: 8s, Bucks, Double Beat, 16th Note Timing, Triplet Roll (Handouts)

21 Drumline Cadences you Must Have: Middle School, High School
Play: Exercises, Provided Cadences
*Research Project 3 Due
23  Drumline Con’t
   **Play:** Exercises, Provided Cadences

28  Drum-set in the Public Schools: Concert band, Percussion ensemble and Jazz Band.
    Styles: Swing, Rock, Funk, Latin
    **Read:** Igoe
    **Play:** Igoe Groove 1, Swing Handout

   **Artists You Should Know/Suggested Listening:** Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, Tony Williams, Steve Gadd, Dave Weckl, Stewart Copeland, Steve Smith, Neal Peart

30  Electronics and Percussion
    Amplification: Mics, Chords, Boards, Speakers, Sub Woofers
    Instruments: Synths, Mallet KAT, Sound Modules, Samplers, Drum machines, Cabinets, Transportation, Logistics

    **May**

5    Safety Net Class – Care, Maintenance, Tuning

7    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