Texas A&M University-Commerce
Department of Music

Percussion Methods-Percussion Majors: MUS 133.004, Spring 2015
Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00-11:50

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Office Hours: By Appointment only

Purpose:
The Percussion Methods Course is designed to prepare music education majors, with a concentration in percussion, for a career teaching percussion in the public schools. The class will examine ideologies and pedagogical approaches to instruments within the percussion family common in the public schools. The students will develop teaching strategies for teaching students from 6th through 12th grade. Students will arrange works for battery instruments, work with Sibelius notational software, and focus on all playing and teaching strategies for all battery instruments. To that aim, there will be a significant performance aspect to the class. The class will examine the beginning 6th grade percussion curriculum and generate lesson plans for teaching important concepts at the beginning level. The students will come away with many tools, materials and methods necessary for teaching percussion.

Requirements:
Students will be required to attend class regularly. The amount of information to be covered doesn't allow time to cover a topic twice. Learning new instruments requires consistent training. Outside reading and online work will be assigned regularly. There will be practical projects designed to prepare students for a percussion director position that will require internet access. Students can complete their work at the University's computer lab, but are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop to class.

Lets Go Green!
It is my goal for all homework and assignments to be completed and turned in electronically. Internet, email and Dropbox will be used constantly to receive and turn in assignments. Students will come away from this class with all of the information stored on your computer so that it can be printed out and used when it is time.

Grading:

Research Projects – 20% Research Projects: Students will be required to prepare various projects on different educational percussion topics throughout the semester.
Performance Exams– 30% Performance Exams: Students will have a playing exam on battery instruments new to them.
Final Electronic Notebook – 10%: Students will be required to have an electronic folder with required materials including handouts, music, pdfs, and other documents they are given throughout the semester. This can be put on a flash drive and turned in on the Final Exam date.
Mid-Term – 20%
Final Exam – 20%

Materials needed:
Each student will be responsible for purchasing the following:

1. One pair of marching snare, tenor and bass drum mallets. These can be purchased at www.lonestarpercussion.com.

2. Textbooks:

A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum by Mark Wessels

Simple Steps to Successful Mallets and More Percussion by Kennan wylie.

These can be purchased at www.lonestarpercussion.com, www.penders.com, www.mwpublications.com, or www.kwylie.com

Suggested but not required:

Simple Steps to Successful Snare Drum by Kennan Wylie or buying the *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* book, that incorporates both the Snare Drum and Mallet/Percussion books together

A Fresh Approach to Keyboard Percussion by Mark Wessels

Spectacular Sound Mixing for Stage, Stadium and Arena by Frank Dorritie
http://xtremebrass.com/store/index.php?dispatch=products.view&product_id=28

Dynamic music: In The Mix (DVD) by Michael Macintosh
http://dynamicmarching.com/dvd-store/dynamic-music-ensemble-in-the-mix

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 stickings 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 textbooks both required and not, class procedure and playing tests
Making the musical shift from performer to teacher and businessman.

22 6th grade curriculum: Discussion of Snare Method Books, Philosophy, Cumulative order of operations, 6th grade Calendar-overview of first half. Essential knowledge and skills.
Materials: Handouts, Wessels and Wylie Books

27 6th grade curriculum Beginning snare drum: Handouts, Materials, Methods: Parts of Hand, Stick, Grip, Hand Position, Legato and Staccato Strokes, 8 on a hand, Bucks
Materials: Handouts, Wessels Book

29 6th grade curriculum: Sticking systems (R hand Lead, R and L hand alternating) Counting, Dynamics, heights Double stroke Production, read, write, recognize rolls, roll rudiments Buzz Rolls
Materials: Handouts, Wessels Book

February

3 6th grade curriculum – Keyboard Percussion: Discussion of Keyboard Method Books, Philosophy, Cumulative order of operations, 6th grade Calendar-overview of second half.
Materials: Handouts, Wessels/Wylie Books

5 ***Written Exam 1 on 6th grade curriculum***
Then- The well-rounded percussion program
Month by Month Calendar in multiple scenarios.
Discussion of percussion ensemble concert logistics from rehearsals all the way to the concert, guest artists, Percussion ensemble performance venues at PASIC, Midwest, Call for tapes process (HS and Jr. HS categories), utilizing parents and more.
Percussion Ensembles: Helpful Websites: www.drop6.com, www.tapspace.com, www.rowloff.com, www.c-alanpublications.com, www.utexas.edu/uil/pml/browse

***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 include a cover, the program, Program notes and Thank you's.

10 Examination of All state process.
All-region etudes at the high school and middle school level, erratas, web sites with etude performances.

TMEA-What it is, when it is, why you should go as a college student, as a professional. Networking. Music as a business. Endorsements.

12 No class – TMEA

17 Battery
Discussion of Snare/Tenor/Bass for people who have not played these instruments.
Compositional function of each instrument.
Intricacies of writing for each instrument.
***Research project 1 due.**
***Launch Battery Composition Project (Project 2).**

19 Battery- Get out the drums! Let's play!! Study of Battery Instrument #1 you have never played
Handouts: Exercises, FWRW, Middle school cadences

24 Battery- Study of Battery Instrument #1 you have never played, continued.
Handouts: Exercises, FWRW, Middle school cadences

26 Battery- Study of Battery Instrument #1 you have never played, continued.
Handouts: Exercises, FWRW
***Project 2 is due.** We will play them in class the next few times

March

3 Then…..Battery- Study of Battery Instrument #2 you have never played
Handouts: Exercises, Student compositions

5 Battery- Study of Battery Instrument #2 you have never played, continued
Handouts: Exercises, Student compositions

10 ***Exam 2: Battery Performances***
Then Mid-Term Review

12 Written Mid-Term Exam

14-22 Spring Break!!!

24 The other duties of a percussion band director and how to survive:
Music Theory, History, Band, Jazz Band, Musical theater.
Getting students ready for college auditions.

26 Dr. Zator, guest lecturer – Keyboard History
Important Marimba Artists and Suggested Listening: Clair Omar Musser, J.C. Deagan, Keiko Abe, Leigh Howard Stevens, Katarzyna Mycka, She-e Wu, Mark Ford, Michael Burritt
Important Vibe Artists and Suggested Listening: Gary Burton, Milt Jackson, Lionel

Hampton, Dave Samuels http://www.jazz.com/dozens/the-dozens-essential-vibes
Important Xylophone Artists and Suggested Listening: Bob Becker, Nexus: Ragtime Concert. George Hamilton Green, Ian Finkel, Teddy Brown

31 Concert Accessories
Concert Bass, Concert Toms, Triangle, Tambourine, Woodblock, Whip Crack, Temple Blocks, Sleigh Bells
How to play and how to teach
***Launch History research project and paper (Project 3)**

April

2 Kevin Luken, guest lecturer – World Percussion Instruments
World/Concert Instruments and Manufacturers
Common/Appropriate Substitutions

7 Crash Cymbals, Ride Cymbals, Suspended Cymbals, Finger Cymbals, Hand Cymbals, Crotales
How to teach
What to look for in a cymbal company
Indoor (Concert) vs. Outdoor (Marching) Cymbals
Sabian, Zildjian, Paiste web sites
Makes, models, budget

9 WGI – ***Exam 3: Guest proctor - Concert Accessories and cymbals.***

14 Drumstick/Drum Head Manufacturers
Models and considerations
What to look for in drumstick and drumhead companies
Indoor (Concert) vs. Outdoor (Marching) sticks, mallets, and heads
Innovative Percussion, Vic Firth, Malletech, Pro-Mark, Mike Balter web sites
Evans and Remo Web Sites
Makes, models, budget
***History Research project due (Project 3)**

16 Drum/Keyboard/Timpani Manufacturers:
What to look for in a drum company
What to look for in a keyboard company
What to look for in timpani
Indoor (Concert) vs. Outdoor (Marching) drums and keyboards
Yamaha, Pearl/Adams, Dynasty/Bergerault web sites
All makes and model numbers in a spread sheet

21 Budget
What are different resources for funding?
Where does the money come from and how are you allowed to use it?
Fundraising, Booster Clubs and the roll they play in the percussion program.
***Launch Research Project 4**: 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.

23 Care and Maintenance: Everything you need to know as a Percussion Director
*__**Research Project 4 due**__

28 Drumset – All students play 6 different styles/performance situations in class:
Rock, Funk, Praise Band, Small Combo, Big Band, Musical (charts sent out prior to class)
Drumset Artists You Should Know and Suggested Listening: Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, Tony Williams, Steve Gadd, Dave Weckl, Stewart Copeland, Steve Smith, Neal Peart
One resource: http://www.drumlessons.com/drummers/

***__Launch Research Project 5:__** Using the Lone Star Percussion Web Site, outfit a new high school with percussion equipment. Include drumline and concert equipment.

30 Introduction to Electronics and Percussion

May

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

7 Final Exam review
***__Research project 5 due__**

TBA **Written Final Exam – Cumulative**
Final e-Notebooks due at this time