



# **ELEMENTARY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

## **MUS 489.001**

### **FALL 2020**

#### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Darla Meek  
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#### **University and Department Information**

##### **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.

##### **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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**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>

**PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT: A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

INSTRUCTOR STATEMENT: Masks and social distancing are required in my classroom. If you feel that you cannot wear a mask the entire class period, please do not attend class. I will also ask that you sterilize your own table after class. Products will be provided.

**CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to

(<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## Course Information

### 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 improvisation in both *do* and *la*-based 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.
- 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  
<http://www.sweetpipes.com/>

- Burakoff, Gerald & Hettrick, William E. (1980) *The Sweet Pipes Recorder Book*. (Book One, Alto) Sweet Pipes, Inc. (6722 Brentwood Stair, Ft. Worth, TX 76112) \$6.50 <http://www.sweetpipes.com/>
- Meek, Darla. (2016.) *Journey Around the Globe with Recorder!* Sweet Pipes, Inc. (6722 Brentwood Stair, Ft. Worth, TX 76112) <http://www.sweetpipes.com/>
- Meek, Darla. (2018) *Flight 2: Another Journey Around the Globe with Recorder!* Sweet Pipes, Inc. (6722 Brentwood Stair, Ft. Worth, TX 76112) <http://www.sweetpipes.com/>
- *Mel Bay Modern Guitar Method Grade 1, Expanded Edition* (Book/CD/DVD Set) by [Mel Bay & William Bay](#) (spiral bound) \$17.99 ISBN-10: 0786613696 Order from West Music: <http://www.westmusic.com/p/american-methodology-2nd-edition.htm>
- Keetman, Gunild. *Rhythmische Ubung*. Schott. \$10.95 ISBN-10: 3795795079 Order from West Music: <http://www.westmusic.com/p/american-methodology-2nd-edition.htm>

## 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.)
- Ukulele (There are some available for checkout.)
- Notebook for organizing your handouts. You will need twelve dividers: Syllabus and Class Agendas, Graded Assignments and Tests, Body Percussion, Unpitched Percussion, Drumming, Barred Instruments, Recorder, Dulcimer, Guitar, Ukulele, Boomwhackers, Miscellaneous.
- Finale or Sibelius notation software
- In order to be successful in this course, you will need to have access to a computer, email, MyLeo Brightspace, and the Elementary Music Dropbox.

## REQUIRED MEMBERSHIPS

It is strongly suggested all students enrolled in elementary methods courses be active members of TMEA and NAFME (TMEC). Membership forms may be accessed online here:

- <https://www.tmea.org/membership/>
- <https://nafme.org/>

## 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 video demonstration of at least two authentic folk songs from cultures other than mainstream America (foreign language preferred), using appropriately authentic instruments.

For more information, go here:

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

## Technology Requirements

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

- LMS Requirements:  
<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>
- LMS Browser Support:  
[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)
- YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:  
<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

### ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

## Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## OTHER RESOURCES

You may need Adobe Acrobat Reader and/or Adobe Flash Player, available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

Quicktime ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)), RealPlayer ([www.real.com](http://www.real.com)), and Windows MediaPlayer 11.0 ([www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download)) will enable you to view videos.

## 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.**

If a resource 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.**

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

## 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.

This class will be fully online. Instructor and students will meet once per week at a mutually agreeable time. Each class period, an attendance count will be taken. Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work unless proof of excused absence is provided (jury summons, doctor's note, etc.).

**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, regardless of the reason.** (Take care to note any university-sponsored events, tour dates, or other activities that may cause you to miss class.) 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.

## **Classroom Expectations**

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE**

- Attend every class and perform to the best of your ability.
- Maintain an orderly notebook.
- Prepare thoroughly and completely. Schedule a regular practice regimen every day.
- Refer to MyLeo Online/D2L Brightspace for assignment instructions. Contact the instructor with any questions.

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 apply to all communication to the instructor and your classmates.

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.

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.

Arrive to the classroom with your instrument tuned and ready to begin playing. Arriving without your music and/or your instrument tuned is grounds for dismissal from class, which will result in a zero for that day.

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. Daily grades will be given according to the instructor's discretion:

- An A will be earned by the student who arrives early with all materials, exhibits superior attentiveness, is fully prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a leader and role model to others.
- A B will be earned by the student who exhibits excellent attentiveness, is prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a valued asset to the ensemble.
- A C will be earned by the student who exhibits average attentiveness, preparation, and class participation.
- A D will be earned by the student who exhibits little attentiveness, preparation, and participation.
- An F will be earned by the student who exhibits no attentiveness, preparation, or participation. This student will be instructed to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

## **Notebook Organization**

For this course, you will have access a collection of songs and other activities for children. **It is STRONGLY SUGGESTED that you organize these resources into a notebook.** This will be a valuable resource for you as you begin teaching, one that you will continue through your career.

Please purchase a three-ring binder and 12 dividers. Label the dividers in this order:

1. Syllabus and Class Agendas
2. Graded Assignments and Tests
3. Body Percussion
4. Unpitched Percussion
5. Drumming
6. Barred Instruments
7. Recorder
8. Dulcimer
9. Guitar
10. Ukulele
11. Boomwhackers
12. Miscellaneous (You may leave this one blank.)

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, which must be completed to specification. Get into the habit of placing your agenda and handouts in their proper places as soon as they are given to you.

## **Assignments**



All assignments will be uploaded into D2L. Notation software is required for assignments needing music notation. Please use university-level spelling, punctuation, and grammar, and head your papers appropriately.

## OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENTS

Over the course of the semester, you will be required to observe three area **elementary** music instructors working in their classrooms with children, for **one hour each**. However, since we will not be allowed on elementary campuses this year, you will complete this requirement through video using the following two channels:

- The TAMUC Music Education YouTube Channel:  
[http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeO\\_NArJmV4iqYHH6thIXfrM4\\_dW8Nz0x](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeO_NArJmV4iqYHH6thIXfrM4_dW8Nz0x)
- The *Kodály Today* YouTube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChi80hm\\_84B6E-WHjEZRf\\_w?fbclid=IwAR0UA0MgdWX0aEIYU0tLgy-oiPeBo8qTPHBBOGDBNE8IQqxA9HK4AA4Xu3Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChi80hm_84B6E-WHjEZRf_w?fbclid=IwAR0UA0MgdWX0aEIYU0tLgy-oiPeBo8qTPHBBOGDBNE8IQqxA9HK4AA4Xu3Q)

Complete the Lesson Observation and Reflection Form provided in D2L. You must log your hours on the form. Be very careful to log the exact number of minutes you watch. You may need to view several short video segments that add up to one hour. If you view more than one teacher, **complete one form for EACH teacher you observe**.

Please understand that though you may observe with a friend, **you must complete your own ORIGINAL work on your form**. Any student who abuses this privilege by using another student's work as his/her own will receive an automatic fail for this course and will be considered for removal from the Undergraduate Field-Based Teacher Certification Program.

It is not appropriate to use one assignment for two courses. In other words, if you are also taking Instruments in Elementary Music (MUS 321), **you may NOT view the same three teachers for both classes**.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Each semester, the TAMU-C Department of Music hosts a workshop for area elementary music teachers on a Saturday morning. **Your attendance is required**. If you have an unavoidable conflict and are unable to attend, an email is required in advance. In this case, you will be able to observe the recording and complete a Workshop Observation and Reflection assignment.

You are **required** to attend all Music Education Convocations offered this semester, even if you have completed all your recital responsibilities.

You are **required** to attend and actively participate in **one** of the several area workshops with **elementary emphasis** for **professional educators**, such as those provided by the North Texas Chapter of AOSA and the Kodály Educators of Texas. The workshop (or combination of workshops) must total at least **three hours** in length. To earn credit, you must upload **all** of the following:

- a CPE certificate
- the workshop handouts

- a reflection (at least one full page, single-spaced)

Concerts do not count toward this requirement.

Any student engages in academic dishonesty by turning in materials without attending and actively participating in the sessions - or who uses another student's work as his/her own - will receive an automatic fail for this course and will be recommended for removal from the Undergraduate Field-Based Teacher Certification Program.

## Assessments

You will need to have excellent musicianship skills as a music educator. During this course, you will work daily on singing, instrument, and movement technique. You will be regularly assessed on all three.

One of the highest priorities of the semester will be developing an excellent singing voice, with good vocal tone, clarity, articulation, and intonation. If singing is not a strength for you, vocal exercises are available so that you can practice daily.

Students are expected to schedule a consistent practice time at least five days out of the seven each week.

## Grading System

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

**Assessments: 40%**

**Homework Assignments: 20%**

<b>90 - 100</b>	<b>= A</b>
<b>80 - 89</b>	<b>= B</b>
<b>70 - 79</b>	<b>= C</b>
<b>60 - 69</b>	<b>= D</b>
<b>59 ↓</b>	<b>= F</b>

## 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 receive an automatic fail for this course and will be considered for removal from the Undergraduate Field-Based Teacher Certification Program.

It is not appropriate to use one assignment for two courses. In other words, if you are also taking Music and Movement I or II (MUS 450 or 465), **you may NOT use the same material for both classes.**

## NOTICE!

- Students are encouraged to seek out the instructor for assignment clarification and/or personal assistance.
- 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 THE SEMESTER

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