

PERCUSSION METHODS SYLLABUS - FALL 2017

Department of Music | College of Fine Arts and Communication
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

MUSIC 155

Instructor: Professor Brian Baldauff	Class Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
Office: NFAC 316	Class Location: NFAC 240/241
Phone: 304-336-8513	Credit Hours: 2
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REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Wylie, Kennan. *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* (with 3-CD set). K. Wylie Publications, 2004.
- Primatic, Stephen. *Percussion Methods*. Meredith Music, 2015.
- Other materials: Please see the list of “Required Supplemental Materials” included in this syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Acquire practical experience in playing instruments of the percussion family. Students will gain an understanding of the core percussion instruments - snare drum, timpani, and mallet instruments - with regard to their pedagogy and performance practices. Trusted and current methods and literature will be used to teach sticking systems, solve notation problems, and develop an educated interpretation of percussion parts. Discussion of marching percussion and drum set will be included.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of percussion performance. The students will be able to demonstrate, through teaching demonstrations and performance, that they will be effective percussion teachers in a school setting. Students will be exposed to various performance problems related to notation, instrument inventory, personnel, skill level, and others. Solutions to these issues will be created both in class and as homework assignments. Discussion of the marching percussion section will aid students in developing a philosophy for its inclusion in a well-rounded general percussion curriculum. Demonstration of effective rehearsal tactics and performance skills will be evaluated throughout the course of the semester and will culminate with the final examination.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required for **ALL** scheduled class meetings! Assimilation of the information taught depends on the student being present in class. Some demonstrations will only be given once during the semester. Each student will receive ONE unexcused absence for the semester. Any unexcused absences after this will reduce the students **final grade** by ten percent (10%). So, if a student has an average of 84% and accumulates two unexcused absences, this student's final grade will be a 74%. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to receive all notes and work missed from a colleague in the class. Excused absences will be granted on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to instructor approval. All excused absences need to be approved no later than 48 hours in advance of the class to be missed. Accumulation of more than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a final grade of F for the course.

NOTE: Attendance at the **two** fall Percussion Ensemble Concerts is **required**. The dates are **Thursday, October 26th and Thursday, December 14th, both at 7:30 pm**. There will be a sign-in sheet for you. Please do not leave until you sign your name. An unexcused absence from these concert counts as an unexcused absence for the class.

EXAMS

There will be a total of three (3) written exams and one (1) playing exam given during the semester. Make-up exams will be given to students only in the case of an emergency and must be scheduled within seven (7) calendar days of the exam date. Make-up exams will be given on a case-by-case basis and will be at the discretion of the instructor. Please see the Grading Procedures section for additional information regarding the weight of the exams.

PROJECTS

Philosophy for the Inclusion of Percussion Ensemble in the Public Schools

Each student will submit a thoughtful and professional argument for including percussion ensemble in the public school curriculum. **The philosophy will be typed, one page, double-spaced, using twelve-point font.** These will be submitted as part of the student's final notebook and no late papers will be accepted. Details for this assignment will be discussed in class. This is to be a continuous and evolving assignment, using data and arguments compiled from in-class discussions, the texts, and other relevant experiences.

Cadence for Battery Percussion Instruments

During the unit covering field and outdoor percussion, each student will be assigned to compose a short cadence for snare drums, tenors, multiple bass drums, and cymbals. The cadence will be composed using a digital notation program such as Sibelius or Finale and will be submitted in score and part form. The length of the cadence will be at least 32 measures and will include contrasting sections. Further details for this assignment including a detailed grading rubric will be given in class. See the semester schedule for due dates.

Part Assignments for Concert Band Percussion Section

As a music educator, you have to make many decisions regarding the personnel of the percussion section with regards to part assignments. This can be very challenging given a limited inventory and either an over or under abundance of percussion students. For this assignment, you will be given three (3) pieces for concert band, each containing a different number of percussion parts with various instruments. You will be responsible for creating a matrix for each piece and assign your imaginary percussion section to individual parts. This might require you to combine parts, arrange new parts, or substitute alternate instruments in the absence of what the composer calls for. Further details will be given in class. See the semester schedule for due dates. No late assignments will be accepted.

Article Reviews

Students will periodically be given articles dealing with a variety of topics. Three (3) written reviews will be due during the semester. For each article, compose a brief evaluation and be critical in terms of the article's validity, clarity, and overall usefulness. Do not simply summarize the article. Instead, provide ways in which you could use the information in your teaching. Reviews should be one (1) page, double-spaced in length and typed. No hand written reviews will be accepted.

NOTEBOOK

Each student will keep an organized and thorough notebook during this course. The notebook will be organized by instrument or instrument category with dividers. A table of contents must be included at the beginning of the notebook outlining the sections. Each section will contain all notes, handouts, exercises, and other various paraphernalia associated with that instrument. The notebook is meant to be a resource the student can keep and refer to during the student's professional teaching career. All assignments will be filed in the notebook and submitted with it. Notebooks will be due December 11th. No late notebooks will be accepted. **If the student neglects to turn in a notebook, a grade of F will be given for the course.**

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be comprised of each student conducting a short percussion ensemble piece, played by the other members of the class. Each student will be assigned a short piece to rehearse and given a predetermined amount of time to rehearse important aspects of it. In addition to observation of your rehearsal strategy, your performance in the other pieces will be evaluated as part of your final grade for the exam. Each student will be expected to perform their part to the best of their abilities. The pieces will be distributed, scores and parts, in a timely manner to give each student the opportunity to learn their respective parts and study the score for their conducted piece. The instructor will be evaluating conductors based on preparation and knowledge of the score, information given to the performers regarding technique and sound production on various instruments, and overall rehearsal strategies. Comments will be provided for each conductor following the exam.

Important note about lateness to or absence from the final exam - Success in conducting your exam depends on all members being there for proper evaluation. **Therefore, being tardy or absent to the final will result in a grade of F for the entire course.** Please plan accordingly.

COLLOQUIUM PERFORMANCE

All members of the course will participate in a colloquium performance toward the end of the semester. This is intended to be a learning experience, geared toward applying the skills acquired during the course. Music will be rehearsed as part of the class curriculum and students will have the opportunity to coach rehearsals. The date of this performance will be determined during the beginning of the semester and communicated with the students.

GRADING PROCEDURES

30% Written and Playing Exams (average of 4 exams)

10% Punctuality and Class Participation

10% Article Reviews

10% Cadence Assignment

10% Part Assignment Matrix

20% Final Notebook Grade
Overall Organization - 10%
Philosophy Statement - 10%

10% Final Exam Grade

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

SYLLABUS CHANGES

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus as necessary. Students will be informed of changes in a timely and appropriate manner.

COMMUNICATION

Your UWSP email will be the primary source of communication for this course. Please plan to check this account on a daily basis and respond appropriately to emails and requests.

PERCUSSION METHODS SEMESTER CALENDAR (FALL 2017)

Date	Topic	Text	Exams/Assignments/Other
9/6	course introduction; syllabus policies	none	list three points for inclusion of percussion ensemble class in public schools
9/8	NO CLASS	none	Find one video performance online of a high school percussion ensemble that you feel is of high performance quality. Share this video link with Prof. Baldauff via email.
9/11	wrist strokes; snare drum set up; intro to posture/grip/full stroke	Primatic pgs. 9-16; Wylie pgs. iii-vii	Compare the two texts and make notes of similarities and differences.
9/13	SD; intro to stroke types; cont. wrist strokes; intro to sticking basics	Wylie Step 1	practice Wylie Step 1; handout article #1
9/15	Peer Teaching	none	none
9/18	SD; begin double strokes; cont. stickings	Wylie Step 2 through checkpoint A; Primatic pgs. 17-18	Article Review #1 DUE
9/20	SD; stroke types; dynamics on snare drum	Wylie Step 6 and 7; Primatic pgs. 21-22	Handout article #2
9/22	Peer Teaching	none	none
9/25	SD; review stickings and right-hand lead system; review other stroke types	Wylie Steps 8- checkpoint B	Article Review #2 DUE
9/27	SD; intro to flams and other ornaments	Wylie Steps 17 and 23; Primatic pgs. 24-25	none
9/29	SD; rolls on snare drum	Wylie Step 14; Primatic pgs, 32-37	handout study guide; sign up for playing exam - snare drum
10/2	SD; cont. rolls	Wylie Steps 10-13	none
10/4	concert toms and field drums	Wylie Step 14a	none

Date	Topic	Text	Exams/Assignments/Other
10/6	none	none	written exam #1
10/9	Bass Drum	Primatic pgs. 43-46	none
10/11	begin keyboard percussion	Wylie viii-xiii; Primatic pgs. 73-78	Compare the two texts and make notes of similarities and differences.
10/13	mallets; general playing and rolls	Primatic pgs. 79-80	handout article #3
10/16	mallets; vibes and chimes	Primatic pgs. 82-83	none
10/18	mallets; four-mallet grips	Primatic pgs. 84-87	Article Review #3 DUE
10/20	Ensemble Playing	Read ensembles for Colloquium	handout part assignment project materials
10/23	Peer Teaching	none	none
10/25	Cymbals	Primatic pgs. 47-53	handout study guide (Percussion Ensemble Concert - Thursday 10/26)
10/27	review keyboard percussion	none	Part Assignments DUE
10/30	Peer Teaching	none	none
11/1	none	none	written exam #2
11/3	triangle and tambourine	Primatic pgs. 54-62	none
11/6	Ensemble Playing	Rehearse Colloquium pieces	none
11/8	NO CLASS	none	none
11/10	NO CLASS	none	none
11/13	begin timpani - intro, setup, sound production	Primatic pgs. 88-93; Wylie Step 10a	none
11/15	timpani - cont. sound production and begin rolls	none	none
11/17	timpani - tuning	Primatic p. 97	none

Date	Topic	Text	Exams/Assignments/Other
11/20	Ensemble Playing	Rehearse Colloquium pieces	handout study guide
11/22	accessory instruments	Primatic pgs. 63-71	none
11/24	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	Happy Thanksgiving!
11/27	begin drum set	Primatic pgs. 98-105	none
11/29	continue drum set	Wylie Step 25a	none
12/1	none	none	written exam #3
12/4	begin marching percussion (battery)	Primatic pgs. 110-114	handout Cadence Assignment
12/6	cont. marching percussion (front ensemble)	none	none
12/8	Q&A	none	handout final exam materials; Cadence Assignment DUE
12/11	Ensemble Playing	Rehearse Colloquium pieces	Notebooks DUE
12/13	Ensemble and Part Interpretation	none	Percussion Ensemble Concert - 12/14
12/15	Ensemble and Part Interpretation	none	none
12/18	Final Exam	none	FINAL EXAM - 10:15 am

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- *Liberty 1 Basic Stick Pack* (purchase from UWSP Music Store)
 - contains:
 - 1 pair Vic Firth SD1 snare drum sticks
 - 1 pair Liberty 1 timpani mallets
 - 1 pair Liberty 1 xylophone mallets
 - 1 pair Liberty 1 marimba mallets
 - Liberty 1 basic stick bag
- *Practice Pad* (rent from UWSP)
- *3-Ring Binder with Dividers*

ADA STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/facultylawAndPolicy.aspx>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center at the beginning of the course and then contact me. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures section of the Community Rights and Responsibilities document, UWSP Chapter 14. This can be accessed by viewing page 11 of the document at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>.