



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

**Percussion Methods**  
MUSI 2104.002

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Prof. Andrew Eldridge
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<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2015
<b>Class Times:</b>	Wednesday, Friday 8:00-8:50 am
<b>Class room:</b>	Room 226 Fine Arts Building
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment

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Faculty profile - <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/andrew-eldridge>

**Course Description:**

This course serves to instruct first year percussion students on the best practices for beginning and intermediate percussion techniques.

This course of study will briefly survey the history of major instruments found in the percussion family as well as the problems and solutions found within notation and scoring. A basic playing technique will be learned on several percussion instruments to prepare performers for a successful applied lesson curriculum commonly found at the collegiate level. Furthermore, percussion students will learn how to apply these techniques as needed when learning solo and large ensemble repertoire.

**Required materials:**

1. Sticks, mallets, and small accessories as found in the UTA Percussion Required Materials List.
2. Texts: *Intermediate Snare Drum Studies* – Mitchell Peters; *UTA Mallet Studies (UTAMS)* – found at Bird's copies; *Fundamental Method for Timpani* – Mitchell Peters; *Groove Essentials: The Play-Along 1.0* – Tommy Igoe; *Basics in Rhythm* – Garwood Whaley

Purchase these from your favorite music store or mail order catalog. Suggested mail order companies:

Steve Weiss Music – [www.steveweissmusic.com](http://www.steveweissmusic.com)

Lone Star Percussion – [www.lonestarpercussion.com](http://www.lonestarpercussion.com)

**Course Objectives:**

1. Do a comprehensive survey of the standard percussion family as used in traditional music settings including band, orchestra, solo and chamber music. The survey will include performance techniques, notation and scoring problems, care and maintenance, etc.
2. Learn the various brands in the percussion industry.
3. Identify the major performing / teaching artists for each percussion category.
4. Create a diagram of a multiple percussion set-up that one may find in a percussion or large ensemble.
5. Gain a basic percussion performance technique. The primary focus of this technique will be acquired on snare drum because of its importance as a basic percussion instrument, the convenience of the practice pad, and the problem with issuing other instruments of the percussion family. Additional techniques will be

covered on keyboard percussion instruments, timpani, drumset, and various accessory percussion instruments.

### **Attendance:**

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, class participation will weigh heavily in the grading process. Therefore, it is assumed you will attend all classes. After a student has been absent twice, each additional absence will reduce the final grade by one letter. The instructor retains the right of determining whether an absence is excused or unexcused. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Additionally, tardiness not only hurts the individual student, but also distracts others in the learning environment. Considering the amount of information in this course of study, you are expected to be in the classroom with all materials ready to go at the beginning of class. Should a student arrive after the start of class, it will be logged as a tardy. Each tardy will reduce the final grade point total by 16 points.

As such, it is the student's responsibility to approach the professor after class about missed assignments and information.

### **Grading:**

Grading will be based on class attendance and participation, two playing exams, two written exams (midterm and final), four recording reviews, an in-class assignment project, and preparation of a course notebook (including all class notes, handouts, etc.). After two unexcused absences, each additional absence will reduce the final grade by one letter.

### **Grading Breakdown:**

Playing Exam #1	150
Midterm	100
Playing Exam #2	150
Recording Reviews	100
Assignment Project	100
Final	100
Final Notebook	100
<b>Total Points =</b>	<b>800</b>

<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>Point Totals</b>
A	720 – 800
B	640 – 719
C	560 – 639
D	480 – 559
F	Below 479

### **Office Hours**

Office hours will change from semester to semester. Be sure to check the percussion board outside Prof. Eldridge's office with hours posted.

## Percussion Methods Sequence

The following is intended to help you better prepare for classes and meet deadlines. It will change due to the specific class needs and schedule conflicts.

Week	Wednesday	Friday
1 (Aug. 27)		Introduction: SD grips, strokes, counting, and maintenance
2 (Aug. 31)	SD: Rudiments, rolls, tuning, stickings	SD; KPI – Grips, instruments, scales / arpeggios, exercises
3 (Sept. 7)	SD; KPI – Scales / Arpeggios, reading	KPI – Four mallet techniques
4 (Sept. 14)	KPI – Four mallet techniques	Solo Literature
5 (Sept. 21)	Timpani – Grips, stroke types, set-up, tuning	Timpani – Tone production, rolls, muting
6 (Sept. 28)	Timpani – Stickings, mallet choices	Timpani – Etudes and Excerpts
7 (Oct. 5)	Written Midterm	Playing Midterm
8 (Oct. 12)	Maintenance of percussion	Accessory Percussion
9 (Oct. 19)	Accessory Percussion	Accessory Percussion
10 (Oct. 26)	Cymbals	Cymbals
11 (Nov. 2)	Multiple Percussion set-ups	Multiple Percussion set-ups
12 (Nov. 9)	Advanced sight-reading concepts	Advanced sight-reading concepts
13 (Nov. 16)	Drumset / Assignment Project	Drumset
14 (Nov. 23)	Drumset	***Thanksgiving Break***
15 (Nov. 30)	Drumset	Final Review
16 (Dec. 7)	Written Final / Notebooks Due	***Study Day***
November 1 <sup>st</sup> is the last day to pick the major assignment topic!		

## Local Percussion Concert / Recital Dates

October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00pm	TCU Percussion Orchestra Concert (Ed Landreth Auditorium)
October 29 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00pm	UNT Night of Percussion (Voertman Concert Hall)
November 4 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30pm	SMU Meadows Percussion Ensemble (Caruth Auditorium)
November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30pm	UTA Percussion Ensemble Concert (Irons Recital Hall)
November 17 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00pm	Ivana Bilic Percussion Recital (TCU, PepsiCo Recital Hall)

# **UTA Academic Statements**

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may

introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located to the right outside of the room, turn right at the first hallway, then proceed to the end of the hallway where the stairwell is located. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).