

Percussion Methods

MUSI 2104.001

Prof. Jacob A. Garcia
Room 224, Fine Arts Building
Jacob.Garcia@uta.edu

Fall 2017
TR 8:30 – 9:20 AM
Room 115, Fine Arts Building

Course Description:

This course serves to instruct music education students on the best practices for teaching percussion in the secondary school music programs. University students will also learn current trends in pedagogical approaches and teaching styles for the various ensembles usually found on middle and high school campuses.

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 educators on common technical and acoustic errors found within young students. Furthermore, music education students will learn the minimum guidelines for upgrading percussion equipment and facilities as set forth by the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy.

Required materials:

1. One pair of general snare drum sticks (either Innovative Percussion Lalo Davila IP-LD or Vic Firth General SD1) from a major manufacturer.
2. Text: *Teaching Percussion*, both by Gary D. Cook.
 - A. **Suggested Texts:** *A Fresh Approach to Snare Drum* **and** *A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion*, both by Mark Wessels.
3. Full size practice pad (Vic Firth Heavy Hitter or Double Sided Practice Pad 12", Evans HQ 12" RealFeel).

Purchase these from your favorite music store or mail order catalog. Suggested mail order companies: Steve Weiss Music – www.steveweissmusic.com
Lone Star Percussion – 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. Investigate current pedagogical techniques for incorporating the percussion family in a systematic and comprehensive manner into the public school system at all levels. A major emphasis will be on beginning materials and identifying performance problems.
3. Create a baseline 36-week curriculum for percussion classes in beginning, middle, and high school.
4. Learn the various brands in the percussion industry.
5. Prepare an essential needs list of instruments and implements for beginning, middle, and high school Percussion programs.

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6. 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, drum set, marching percussion, 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 half a 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 20 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, three playing exams, two written exams (midterm and final), two concert reviews, two assignment projects, and preparation of a course electronic 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	100
Playing Exam #2	100
Playing Exam #3	100
Midterm	100
Concert Reviews	200
Assignment Projects	200
Final	100
Final Notebook	100
Total Points	1000

Final Grade	Point Totals
A	1000 – 900
B	899 – 800
C	799 – 700
D	699 – 600
F	599 – fewer

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Concert Reviews (100 points each)

Students are required to attend two live percussion concerts during the semester. Suitable concerts and recitals in the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex are listed in this syllabus. The professor must approve in advance any event the student wants to attend that is not listed. It must be a legitimate university or professional level percussion event to be approved.

Each concert review must consist of at least two pages (typed, 12-point, double-spaced, 1-inch margins), but the student is not limited to that length. The review must critically analyze the performance and how it relates to the course subject matter. Further guidelines will be provided in a handout during class. **Each concert review is due by the second class meeting after the concert and must have an attached program from the attended concert.**

Notebook (Electronic – 100 points)

Students will need to keep an organized electronic “notebook” to turn in during the final. It must be sent to the professor’s email in the form of a PDF, no later than December 6th, 5:00pm. The notebook will include all class notes, handouts, concert reviews, tests, and anything else deemed important during the semester. All typed notes should be separated by folders in the notebook file according to instrument module: Snare drum, Keyboard, Timpani, Accessories, Drumset, Marching Percussion, Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Curriculum, and Concert Reviews. The notebook is considered a reference for the student aiding them during the first ten years of teaching. All materials given to students will be provided electronically as well as on paper. Further guidelines will be provided in a handout during class.

Class Assignment Projects (100 points each)

Two separate assignment projects will be handed out during the semester. The student will have one week to complete each project. Further guidelines will be provided in a handout during class. Topics will cover:

1. Make an Excel spreadsheet of yearly expenses you will need for a middle school or high school percussion program.
2. Create a high school inventory sheet with all new percussion equipment using the Lone Star Percussion or Steve Weiss Music website.

Office Hours

Contact Prof. Garcia to schedule an office visit.

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Class Schedule

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

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1 (8.25)	No Class	Class Intro. Instrument Classifications. Technique Basics
2 (8.28)	Selecting Percussionists. Stroke Types. Multiple Strokes.	Percussion Rudiments. Embellishments. Rolls/Notation. Drum/Stick Anatomy.
3 (9.4)	Review. Introduce/Assign SD Etude.	Review Etude. Introduce Timpani/Mallet Types/head materials. Stroke Type. Grip.
4 (9.11)	Playing Exam #1	Timpani Roll. Notations. Sticking. How to change the head/Maintenance. How to clear a head/fix spring tension pedal. Historical Context. Muting/Muffling. Drum Ranges/Playing Zones.
5 (9.18)	Introduce Keyboard Percussion. Instrument/Implement Types. Ranges.	Mallet manufacturers. 2 and 4 mallet playing techniques. Vibraphone dampening/Pedal technique. Playing areas.
6 (9.25)	Review technique/Sight Reading on a keyboard. Object of sustain.	REVIEW
7 (10.2)	MIDTERM	Introduce Accessories and remaining battery instruments. BD/Cymbals.
8 (10.9)	Cymbals: How it's made! Crash and Suspended Cymbals. What to listen for/playing and crashing techniques. Sizes.	Bass Drum: Stands. Tuning, Playing areas, mallets, head type, humidifiers for calf. BD/Cym attach.
9 (10.16)	Tambourine: Jingle/head type. Sizes. How to select jingle type. Playing Techniques. Maintenance.	Gongs/Tam Tams: Sizes, playing areas, mallet types, dampening, stands. Triangle: How to select. Clips. Beaters. Playing areas. Techniques. Triangle machines. Roll, posture.
10 (10.23)	Playing Exam #2	Remaining Accessory instruments: Castanets, wood blocks, cowbells, finger cymbals, ratchet, brake drums and other metallic sounds, aero phones. Sound Substitutions. REVIEW. Assign Playing Exam #3. Assignment #1 is Due: Percussion Inventory
11 (10.30)	-No Class-	-No Class-
12 (11.6)	Drum set. Common drum sizes, head types, cymbal types and sizes, implements. Hardware use and assembly. First Style: Straight ahead, Rock.	Drum set continued. Review Rock/coordination. Introduce Jazz and basic Latin styles. Brush Technique. Play Along.
13 (11.13)	Basic Hand Drumming/Latin Percussion. Conga/Bongo Patterns/Timbales	Playing Exam #3
14 (11.20)	World Percussion Continued. Introduce Marching Percussion.	-No Class- Thanksgiving Break
15 (11.27)	Marching Perc. Continued: Playing Techniques. Snare drum Match vs. Traditional grip. BD playing/split technique.	MP continued. Review techniques. Discuss Tuning and maintenance techniques. Group Play. Assignment #2 Due: Yearly Expenses
16 (12.4)	REVIEW	-Finals-
Finals	FINAL EXAM 12.12.17, 8 AM.	

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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 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.

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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>.

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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, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.