

Sul Ross State University
MUS 4215
Marching Band Techniques
Fall 2014

Professor: Heather Ainsworth-Dobbins

Email: bassoon_ha@yahoo.com

Class Meetings: MWF 9-9:50am, FAB 207

Description

This course will introduce the student to the fundamental principles of effective instruction and organization of the marching band, and will train the student in the basic techniques of computer-assisted drill design.

Music Program Learning Objectives

This course is a required course for a major in instrumental music. As such, it helps the student to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes for the major. These learning outcomes include:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
2. the ability to prepare appropriate program notes.
3. the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.
4. a general knowledge of music history

Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- plan an entire marching band season
- develop a good marching band sound
- teach a variety of marching styles
- utilize the fundamentals of show construction and drill design
- create computer-aided drill design
- understand the roles of percussion in marching band
- organize auxiliary groups (flags, drill teams, etc.)
- design, inventory, and care for uniforms
- evaluate marching band musical arrangements
- administer a marching band program
- understand the role and purpose of marching band in public school music education

Required Materials

- Texts: *The Dynamic Marching Band* by Wayne Markworth
- 3-ring binder with dividers for all your materials
- USB Flash Drive
- Headphones/earbuds

Class Attendance and Participation

- Late arrival and excessive absences are unprofessional and, therefore, unacceptable for this course.

- You are allowed one unexcused absence for the semester.
- Each absence after one will lower your final grade by one letter grade. (For example, an A becomes a B, an A- becomes a B-.)
- Absences will be excused for medical emergencies or serious personal conflicts, but prior approval or documentation is required.
- A tardy of no more than 10 minutes will equate to half of an absence.
- A tardy of more than 10 minutes will be recorded as an absence. (I still encourage you to come to class if you'll be more than 10 minutes late- you will be less likely to miss information that way.)
- As is expected with an employed teacher, please call or text me if you are going to be absent or tardy to class. Call *prior* to the start of class.
- Students with six unexcused absences will be dropped from the class.

Course Assignments & Grading:

Grades for this course will be determined according to the following criteria:

- Observation Log 15%
 - You will observe 3 practices of the Alpine High School Marching Band and/or Winterguard during the semester. A practice schedule for the group will be provided. Substitutions can be made, with professor's approval.
 - Following each observation, a written document must be submitted with details about what you observed, questions you may have, and other details that you noticed about these activities.
- Assignments & quizzes 40%
 - Assignments must be typed. Due dates will be announced in class. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero, but will still be graded for comments.
 - Quizzes will only be made up for excused absences.
- Course notebook 15%
 - This 3-ring notebook will serve as an important resource collection when you begin your teaching experience.
 - TYPED label on the front identifying course and student name.
 - TYPED "Table of Contents"
 - Organized with dividers and tab labels
 - ALL class notes TYPED
 - ALL course handouts, assignments & quizzes
- Drill Design Project 20%
- Final examination 10%

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in the Counseling Center or call 837-8203.

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).

- In order to maintain a focused learning environment it is required that all cellular phones and other hand-held electronic devices be turned off or made inaudible during class.
- As this course is computer based, all work will be done using Apple computer products. Lab computers are not to be used for personal reasons (sending/responding to emails, web browsing, etc.)

Tentative Weekly Course Outline

Week of August 25: Foundations of the Marching Band

September 1: No class, Labor Day holiday

Week of September 1: The Wind Section

Week of September 8: Percussion and Color Guard

Week of September 15: The Marching Program

Week of September 22: Contd.

September 29: Sul Ross Marching Invitational (attendance required)

Week of September 29: Rehearsal Techniques/ Show Planning

Week of October 6: Contd.

Week of October 13: Drill Design

Week of October 20: Drill Design (cont.)

Week of October 27: Drill Design (cont.)

Week of November 3: Attitude/ Student Leadership

Week of November 10: Band Boosters, etc.

Week of November 17: Marching Band Recruiting/ Band Camp

Week of November 24: Contd.

November 26-28: Thanksgiving Holidays

Week of December 1: Final Review

December 3: Last class day

December 10: Final Exam 8am