

Sul Ross State University
Marching Band Techniques-MUS 4215
Spring 2017

Professor: Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, D.M.A.

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Office: FAB 202

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Class Meetings: M/W 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m., FAB 207

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday 10:00-11:00 a.m., 3:15-4:00 p.m.; Friday-by appointment

Description

A study of the problems peculiar to the marching band and their solutions; planning, charting, and rehearsing of marching performances for parades, half-time shows, and contests; the administration of marching band personnel and equipment; baton twirling and drum majoring.

Student Learning Outcomes for Music Majors:

SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.

SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes.

SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

This course contributes to meeting these cumulative SLOs.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

After completing this course students should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate an understanding of musical choice and its impact on show design as well as interpretive skill in drill writing as it pertains to visual representation of the musical score. *(Skills)*
- 2) apply an understanding of teaching techniques related to marching fundamentals and drill. *(Skills)*
- 3) demonstrate an understanding of the teaching and set-up of a marching percussion line, pit percussion, colorguard, drum majors, etc. *(Skills)*
- 4) create a budget for a high school marching band program. *(Knowledge; Skills)*
- 5) design a show using Pyware 3D charting software. *(Skills; Attitudes or dispositions)*
- 6) demonstrate an understanding of the administrative components of a high school marching band program, including Band Boosters, leadership, trip planning, uniform and material purchasing, creating a handbook, etc. *(Knowledge; Skills)*
- 7) evaluate and discuss different levels of and options for marching band shows through observation of high quality high school and college marching bands. *(Attitudes or dispositions)*

Major Assignments with Matched SLOs

- Each student will develop and execute a lesson plan for teaching marching fundamentals and drum major techniques. The students will be evaluated on their lessons plan, rehearsal technique, and on written peer and self-evaluations. *(2,3)*
- Students will complete three written observations of marching band shows, evaluating their mastery of show elements, musical content, and overall performance. *(1,3,7)*
- Students will create mock elements of a band handbook as they will be expected to do in their own program. *(3,6)*
- Drill writing will be taught through the use of hand drawn charts as well as Pyware software. Students will design several sets with hand drawn charts for a fictional ensemble of varying numbers. *(1,3)*
- Each student will develop a mock budget for a high school marching band program. *(4,6)*
- Each student will design a show including music, Pyware drill writing software, and mock visual elements. *(1,3,5,7)*

Required Materials

- Drill charting paper
- 3 ring binder with paper for notes
- Thumb drive for storing and transferring computer files
- A personal computer with Pyware software OR regular attendance in FAB 207 to use Pyware
- Pencil, pen, colored pencils/fine-tipped markers, large eraser
- Blackboard access

Class Attendance and Participation

- Absences will be excused for medical emergencies or serious personal conflicts, but **prior approval or documentation is required.**
- Every three tardies of less than 10 minutes equals one absence.
- A tardy of more than 10 minutes will be recorded as one absence. (I still encourage you to come to come to class even if you are late. You will be less likely to miss information that way.)
- Please call or email *prior* to the start of class if you are going to be absent or tardy.
- Paying attention, asking relevant questions, giving constructive feedback when called upon will all be considered when determining the class participation grade. **With that in mind; the use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, iPads and any other personal electronic devices are strictly prohibited by students.** If you are found to be using any of these devices during class, I will **PERMANENTLY** take possession of the device and you will be asked to leave class for the day, counting it as an unexcused absence.
- As this course is a major requirement but only meets twice a week, **THREE unexcused absences will result in you being dropped from the course with a grade of "F."**

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Lesson plan for lab rehearsals: 20 points (10 each rehearsal)
2. Lab rehearsals
 - a. Rehearsal: 20 points (10 each rehearsal)
 - b. Evaluation, peer and self: 20 points (5 points each for peer/self, 10 each rehearsal)
3. Homework: 15 points
4. Band Observations: 30 points (10 points each)
5. Handbook Project: 30 points
6. Hand drawn Chart Assignment: 30 points
7. Budget Project: 50 points
8. Show Design Project: 60 points

Grading Point Scale

- A: 220-275 points
B: 165-219 points
C: 110-164 points
D: 55-109 points
F: 54-0 points

The instructor will provide detailed information and due dates for assignments and projects on a separate handout.

--No late assignments will be accepted without a doctor's note or professor's prior approval.

--Attendance at lab classes (see Course Outline) is mandatory! There is no make-up for a missed lab.

Professional Communication Policy

- All communication with me should be done either in person, by office phone, or through email.
- You are expected to check your email **DAILY** for communication from me regarding this course.

Students with Disabilities

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Tentative Weekly Course Outline (Subject to change)

1. Week of January 16

Syllabus and Introduction; Elements of a Marching Band

2. Week of January 23

Short History of Marching Band; MB Administration I-Creating a Handbook (Knowing Your Program, Getting Organized, Establishing Expectations)

3. Week of January 30

MB Administration I cont.; MB Administration II-How To Deal With Parents (Trip Planning, Band Boosters)

4. Week of February 6 (TMEA)

Music (Developing Fundamentals, Sound Concept, Rehearsal Schedule/Technique); ***Attend at least one marching band session at TMEA**

5. Week of February 13

Music (Knowing Your Band; Introduction to Arranging); Music and Show Design

6. Week of February 20

Materials, Uniforms, and Visual Elements; Budget

7. Week of February 27

Basic Principals of Drill Design; Drill Charting-hand drawn; **Handbook Project Due**

8. Week of March 6

Drill Charting-Pyware; **Band Observation I Due**

9. Week of March 13

Spring Break, No classes

10. Week of March 20

Hand drawn Charts Due; Drill Charting; Pyware

11. Week of March 27

Teaching Fundamentals

12. Week of April 3

Band Observation II Due; Fundamentals Lab I/II—*Rec Sports Field (Attendance mandatory)

13. Week of April 10

Colorguard; Leadership/Drum Majoring (*alternate dates for inclement weather, Lab I/II*)

14. Week of April 17

Drum Majoring Lab III/IV—*Rec Sports Field (Attendance mandatory)

15. Week of April 24

Adjudication and Competitions; Band Camp Administration; Parades and Half-time shows (*alternate dates for inclement weather, Lab III/IV*); **Band Observation III Due**

16. Week of May 1

Inventory; Who Are Your Best Friends?; Ethical Considerations; Interviewing; **Budget Project Due**

17. Tuesday, May 9

Final Exam: 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. *Show Design Project Due-presentations