

Sul Ross State University
Marching Band Techniques-MUS 4215
Fall 2018

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

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Class Meetings: M/W 2:00 p.m.-2:50 p.m., FAB 207

Office Hours: Mondays 1:15 p.m.-2:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.; Thursdays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Fridays 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 Objectives (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 drill 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 lesson plan, rehearsal technique, and on written peer and self-evaluations. *(2,3)*
- Students will complete two written observations of marching band shows, evaluating their mastery of show elements, musical content, and overall performance. Students will complete a third written observation of an Alpine High School marching band rehearsal or football game half-time performance, evaluating the same elements as well as commenting on rehearsal and logistical tactics. *(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 both for a fictional ensemble of varying numbers. *(1,3,5)*

- Each student will develop a mock budget for a high school marching band program. (4,6)

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 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 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."***

**Outside class participation

- The execution of a successful marching band program by nature requires a great deal of commitment outside of regular school hours, from both the students and director. In order to maximize on local marching band opportunities for participation, students will be required to spend some time outside of our regular class meeting. Students are expected to make the necessary arrangements to participate in these events WELL IN ADVANCE. These events are included in the course calendar and are non-negotiable. They are listed below as well:
 - Students will be required to attend and help with the **SRSU Marching Invitational on Monday, October 1**
 - All students are required to attend and help with the Lobo Athletic Band at **one SRSU home football game**. The dates are as follows:
 - **September 15, 29; October 6, 20; November 10**
 - Students will be required to write one observation after attending either **one 2-hour Alpine High School marching band rehearsal OR one AHS marching band performance at a home football game**. Students must arrange their attendance at one of these events directly with the director, Mr. Chuck Wilson.
 - AHS rehearsals: Monday nights, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 8:00-8:45 a.m. (*if you choose to go to the morning rehearsal, you will need to attend TWO for the observation.*)

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Lesson plan for lab rehearsals: 30 points (15 each rehearsal)
2. Lab rehearsals
 - a. Rehearsal: 40 points (20 each rehearsal)
 - b. Evaluation, peer and self: 20 points (5 points each for peer/self, 10 each rehearsal)
3. Participation in SRSU Marching Invitational: 70 points
4. Participation in SRSU home football game: 70 points
5. Budget Project: 65 points
6. Handbook Project: 50 points

7. Band Observations: 45 points (15 points each)
8. Pyware Design Project: 40 points
9. Hand drawn Chart Assignment: 30 points
10. Notebook 20 points
11. Homework: 20 points

Grading Point Scale

- A: 430-500 points
- B: 350-429 points
- C: 260-349 points
- D: 160-259 points
- F: 0-159 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, football games (see Course Outline), and the SRSU Marching Invitational is mandatory! There is no make-up for missing one of these events.

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 August 27

Syllabus and Introduction; Elements of a Marching Band; MB Administration I-Creating a Handbook (Knowing Your Program, Getting Organized, Establishing Expectations)

2. Week of September 3

No Class Monday-Labor Day; MB Administration I., cont.; Marching Band Styles

3. Week of September 10

Teaching Fundamentals; **Wednesday-class at Rec Sports Field*

Football Game 1

4. Week of September 17

Fundamentals Lab I-*Rec Sports Field (Attendance mandatory); MB Administration II-How To Deal With Parents (Trip Planning, Band Boosters)

5. Week of September 24

MB Administration II, cont.; (*alternate date for inclement weather, Lab I*); Music (Developing Fundamentals, Sound Concept, Rehearsal Schedule/Technique)

Handbook Project Due

Football Game 2

6. Week of October 1

SRSU Marching Invitational-*Jackson Stadium (Attendance Mandatory)

No class Wednesday—assignment due
Band Observation I due
Football Game 3

7. Week of October 8
Basic Principals of Drill Design; Drill Charting-hand drawn

8. Week of October 15
Leadership/Drum Majoring; *Wednesday-class at Rec Sports Field*
Football Game 4

9. Week of October 22
Drum Majoring Lab II-*Rec Sports Field (Attendance mandatory)
Music (Knowing Your Band; Introduction to Arranging)

10. Week of October 29
Drill Charting; Pyware; *(alternate date for inclement weather, Lab II)*
Hand drawn Charts Due

11. Week of November 5
Music and Show Design; Budget
Band Observation II Due
Football Game 5

12. Week of November 12
Budget, cont.; Materials, Uniforms, and Visual Elements

13. Week of November 19
Colorguard
No class 11/21-Thanksgiving Break

14. Week of November 26
Adjudication, Competitions, and Parades; Band Camp Administration
No class Wednesday—assignment due
Band Observation III Due

15. Week of December 3
Inventory; Who Are Your Best Friends?; Ethical Considerations
Budget Project Due

16. Tuesday, December 11, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Final Exam: Pyware Design Project presentations; Notebook Due