

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Marching Band Techniques-MUS 4215**  
**Spring 2021**

**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.; online, FAB 207, and Rec Sports Field (*see calendar*)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Thursdays and 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*)

**Marketable Skills**

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. \*Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. \*Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.
3. \*Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.
4. \*Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and

- examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

*Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with \**

### **Major Assignments with Matched SLOs**

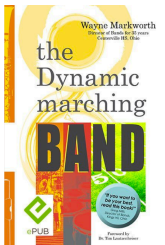
- Each student will develop and execute a lesson plan for teaching marching fundamentals and drum major techniques. The students will be evaluated on their lesson plan, rehearsal technique, and on written peer and self-evaluations. (2,3)
- Students will complete two written observations of marching band shows, evaluating their mastery of show elements, musical content, and overall performance. Students will complete a third written observation as a follow-up to a live SRSU Lobo Athletic Band performance or guest lecturer for our course. (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 for a fictional ensemble of varying numbers and for the show design project, will include with it other elements of show design such as uniforms, visual props, and musical selections. (1,3,5)
- Each student will develop a mock budget for a high school marching band program. (4,6)

### **Required Materials**

- Blackboard access; internet access (*these services provided on campus*)
- 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
- Mask
- Appropriate footwear for outdoor marching labs
- All work should be typed, either using a word processing program, or better still, a cloud-based web application such as Blackboard, Google Docs, Office 365, etc.

### **Required Textbook:**

- *The Dynamic Marching Band* by Wayne Markworth



- I highly recommend the eBook version of this text. It is the most recent edition of the text and is cheaper than buying a physical copy of the previous edition. You may choose from the several available formats to get what will be most useful to you. Consider that you will want to keep this text for future use!
- The text can be purchased at the following link: <https://marchingartseducation.com/tdmb/>

### **Class Attendance and Participation**

As this class only meets twice a week and provides valuable material for your future as music educators, the attendance policy will be strictly observed. Masks must be worn **at all times** during class unless an occasion to remove it is approved by the instructor (*in order to demonstrate on a wind instrument, for example*).

- Excused absences:
  - Medical emergencies or serious personal conflicts will be excused, **but immediate communication with the professor about this is required.**
  - Graded work missed during an excused absence may be made up for full credit **within one week** of the student's return to class.
  - Assignments missed during an excused absence may be turned in **within one week** of the student's return to class for full credit. You may still turn in an assignment after this period, but one letter grade will be automatically taken off for each week it is late.
- Unexcused absences:
  - Graded work missed during an unexcused absence may **not** be made up.
  - Assignments missed during an unexcused absence may be turned in **within one week** of the due date for full credit. You may still turn in an assignment after this period, but one letter grade will be automatically taken off for each week it is late.
  - 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."**
- Tardies—Punctuality is a useful skill to gain in college. You will not be successful in the working world if you are consistently late! Begin now—arrive to class on time.
  - Every three tardies of less than 15 minutes equals one absence.
  - A tardy of more than 15 minutes will be recorded as an absence. *(I still encourage you to come to come to class if you are late. You will be less likely to miss information that way.)*
- Participation and Cell Phones:
  - 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; I do not want to see your cell phone. If I see it, I take it.**

#### COVID-19 policies

- If a student has been sick with **any** disease, they must be **fever-free for at least 24 hours** (without fever reducing medication) before attending class in person.
- If a student contracts COVID-19 or is in contact with someone that contracted it, they must follow university policy for reporting and be released from quarantine **before** returning to class in person.

#### \*\*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 the minimal opportunities available this semester for participation, students will be required to attend **ONE** SRSU football or basketball game in which the Lobo Athletic Band is participating. Though this is not a marching band, there are many important parallels that will provide useful experience. Students should make the necessary arrangements **WELL IN ADVANCE** to participate in one these events and sign up accordingly. The dates are:
  - **Football games:** February 20, March 6
  - **Basketball games:** February 4; February 6; February 25
  - **Responsibilities:** Arrive early and stay late to help with load in/load out, set up/tear down. Check with Dr. Meyer before your game to see if he would like you to bring an instrument and play. You will serve as his assistant for the game, so you will be helping him, learning the rules of when to play and when not to play, and generally learning the logistics of working in an athletic band situation.
    - **Note:** If you are a member of the Lobo Athletic Band, you will still participate in this as part of our course but will have the additional responsibilities listed above at the game for which you sign up.

### **Grading Procedures**

***Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:***

1. Labs (lesson plan, execution, peer and self-evaluations): 20%
2. Budget Project: 20%
3. Show Design Project: 20%
4. Handbook Project: 10%
5. Hand Drawn Chart Assignment: 10%
6. Participation in outside event: 10%
7. Written Observations: 10%

### **Grading Scale**

A=90-100    B=80-89    C=70-79    D=60-69    F=below 60

**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 is mandatory because they occur at a location only reserved for specific dates and because they utilize all students both as teachers and participants. The same is true for participation in one of the SRSU Lobo Athletic Band events. There is no make-up for missing one of these.***

### **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.

### **Special Needs**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students with qualifying disabilities who seek accommodations must initiate a request for a meeting for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Counseling & Accessibility Services, Telephone: 432-837-8203, or E-mail: rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>

### **SRSU Library Services**

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

### **Tentative Weekly Course Outline (Subject to change)**

1. Week of January 11 ***\*online***

Syllabus and Introduction; Foundations of the Marching Band

2. Week of January 18 ***\*online***

**No Class Monday-MLK, Jr. Day**; Foundations of the Marching Band., cont.

3. Week of January 25 ***\*online***

The Marching Program

4. Week of February 1 ***\*online***

Elements of the Marching Band-Winds, Percussion, Color Guard

5. Week of February 8 ***\*online***

Rehearsal Techniques

**Handbook Project Due**

6. Week of February 15 *\*online*  
Show Planning

7. Week of February 22 *\*online*  
Drill Design  
**Band Observation I due**

8. Week of March 1 *\*in-person*  
Drill Design/Pyware

9. Week of March 8  
**Spring Break, No Classes**

10. Week of March 15 *\*online*  
Pyware; The Band Boosters; **Hand drawn Charts Due**

11. Week of March 22 *\*in-person through end of semester*  
Band Camp; Budget  
**Band Observation II Due**

12. Week of March 29 (*Monday is alternate lab date for inclement weather*)  
Budget, cont.; Teaching Fundamentals-*Wednesday-class at Rec Sports Field*

13. Week of April 5  
Teaching Fundamentals-*Monday-class at Rec Sports Field*  
**Wednesday-Fundamentals Lab I-\*Rec Sports Field (Attendance mandatory)**

14. Week of April 12  
Student Leadership-*Monday and Wednesday-class at Rec Sports Field*  
**Band Observation III Due**

15. Week of April 19 (*Wednesday is alternate date for inclement weather*)  
Student Leadership, cont.  
**Monday-Drum Majoring Lab II-\*Rec Sports Field (Attendance mandatory)**  
**Budget Project Due**

16. Week of April 26  
Band/Life Balance; Ethical Considerations

17. Tuesday, May 4: Final Exam, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**Final Exam—Show Design Project presentations**