

Sul Ross State University
Percussion Techniques—MUS 2122
Spring 2020

Professor: Chuck Wilson, M.A.

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Class Meetings: Mondays/Wednesdays 2:00-2:50 p.m. Fine Arts Building, Room 100

Office Hours: arranged

Course Description

This course is designed to give the student basic skills in playing percussion instruments and prepare the student to be an effective and knowledgeable teacher of percussion instruments. Emphasis will be placed on performance and pedagogy and will familiarize the student with the resources available to supplement the information that is presented in class.

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.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

After completing this course students should be able to:

1. Recognize a characteristic sound on each of the percussion instruments. (*Knowledge*)
2. Play each percussion instrument at an acceptable level with a characteristic sound. (*Skills*)
3. Explain solutions to playing and pedagogical problems as they relate to percussion instruments. (*Knowledge, Skills, and Disposition*)
4. Explain basic historical evolutions of percussion instruments. (*Knowledge*)
5. Seek out resources to answer questions and problems beyond their knowledge. (*Skills and Disposition*)

Major Assignments with Matched SLOs

- Written Tests and Homework – 1., 3., 4., 5.
- In-class Playing Tests – 2., 5.
- Observation Report (Clinic) and Article Review – 1., 3.
- Resource Notebook of Collected Materials – 3., 4., 5.

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 **

Required Materials

<https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/stick-pack/stick-mallet-pack>

Class Attendance and Participation ○

- Students are expected to follow university attendance and tardy policies.

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

- 30% Daily work (worksheets, participation)
- 30% Playing tests
- 40% Projects/Exams

Special Needs

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 Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director of Counseling and Accessibility, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-8378691. E-mail: rebecca.wren@sulross.edu.

Tentative Weekly Course Outline (Subject to change)

Week 1:

- Percussion basic understanding
- Mallet grip and orchestra bells (glockenspiel)

Week 2:

- Review single mallet grip, discuss double mallet grip
- Work on performing on bells
- Playing test 1 – scales

Week 3:

- Rudiments and how they apply to percussionists
- Basic concert snare grip

Week 4:

- Snare drum
- Percussion tuning and maintenance

Week 5:

- Snare rudiments
- Marching snare drum
- Playing test 2 – 1st rudiments

Week 6:

- Concert bass drum
- Marching bass drum

Week 7:

- Playing test 3 – 2nd rudiments
- Tenor drums

Week 8:

- Crash cymbals (strap trying technique)
- Suspended cymbals
- Tam tam (gong)

Week 9:

- triangle, cow bell, guiro, tambourine, maracas, claves, and other as sundry instruments

Week 10:

- Continue percussion
- Marching percussion

Week 11:

- Playing test 4 – percussion cadence
- Drum set

Week 12:

- Continue drum set

Week 13:

- Continue drum set
- Tympani

Week 14:

- Prepare for final exam
- Final project – prepare a paper explaining to a 12 year old student how to properly perform snare drum stick technique and orchestra bell mallet technique

Week 15:

- Final exam – students will be expected to be able to perform short excerpts (8 measures) on any of the instruments studied this semester. Grade will be determined by technique applied to each instrument.