

Marching Band Techniques—MUS 4215

Fall 2023

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

Email: mary.thompson@sulross.edu

Class Meetings: Web-delivered, asynchronous

Office Hours: *Email the instructor to schedule virtual meetings at a mutually convenient time.

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) 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)*
- 6) 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

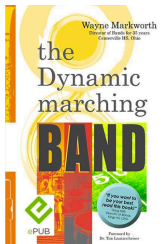
- Students will complete written observations of marching band practices and shows, evaluating their mastery of show elements, musical content, and overall performance. (1,3,7)
- Students will create mock elements of an ensemble handbook as they will be expected to do in their own program. (3,6)
- Each student will develop a mock budget for a high school marching band program. (4,6)
- Marching band labs will be taught in person to cover the basics of marching fundamentals. (1,2)
- Students will develop their own mock show design project to put together all elements discussed throughout the course. (4,6)

Required Materials

- Blackboard access; internet access (*these services provided on campus*)
- Appropriate footwear for marching labs and attendance at marching band practices/performance
- 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.
- The text can be purchased at the following link: <https://marchingartseducation.com/tdmb/>

Class Attendance and Participation

Actively working in the course and completing assignments constitutes class participation, as does corresponding with the instructor via e-mail if you have difficulty with an assignment or technical problems.

If you are not actively participating and have not reached out to the instructor, you may be dropped from the course pending the University's Instructor Initiated Drop policy.

Late work will **not** be accepted **unless** accompanied by a written excuse such as a doctor's note, military orders, or official University excuse. Unless an emergency, these should be discussed with the instructor

before the due date passes. Due to the work-at-your-own-pace nature of this course, you should not need an extension on any work due except for extreme cases, to be discussed with the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Weekly Assignments—20%
2. Marching Labs –20%
3. Written Observations –20%
4. Budget Project – 15%
5. Show Design Project – 15%
6. Handbook Project – 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, observations, and projects on a separate handout.

Professional Communication Policy

- All communication with me should be done primarily through email, phone, or virtual meetings.
- You are expected to check your email and the course Blackboard page on a **regular basis**.

SRSU Library Services

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial 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).

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

SRSU Disability Services

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, Room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Tentative Weekly Course Outline (Subject to change)

**Due dates for observations will be added to the calendar as soon as a list of possible options for*

attendance can be obtained.

1. Week of August 28
Syllabus and introduction to course; General Elements of Marching Band
2. Week of September 4
General Elements of Marching Band, cont.; Foundations of Marching Band
3. Week of September 11
The Marching Program; Handbooks
4. Week of September 18
Handbooks, cont.; **Handbook Project Due**
5. Week of September 25
Elements of Marching Band: Winds, Percussion
6. Week of October 2
Elements of Marching Band: Colorguard
7. Week of October 9
Budget
8. Week of October 16
Administration: Boosters, Parents, Fundraising
9. Week of October 23
Basics of Drill
10. Week of October 30
Show Design; **Budget Project Due**
11. Week of November 6
Marching Fundamentals Lab 1 (*in-person with A.K. Holmes*)
12. Week of November 13
Marching Fundamentals Lab 2 (*in-person with A.K. Holmes*)
13. Week of November 20
Arranging for Marching Band
14. Week of November 27
Planning Trips/Leadership
15. Week of December 4
Wrap-Up
16. Week of December 11
Final Exam-Show Design Project Due