

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Percussion Techniques – MUS 2122**  
**Spring 2024**

**Professor:** Dr. Kenn McSperitt

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**Office:** NA

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**Class Meetings:** Wednesdays; Time: 5:00 PM – 6:50 PM. Fine Arts Building, Room FAB100

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**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 the basic historical evolution 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; 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, 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% Final Project/Exam

### **Special Needs**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at (432) 837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or contact Alejandra Valdez at (830) 758-5006 or email [alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu](mailto:alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **SRSU 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 a 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.

### **Weekly Course Outline**

Week 1:

- Percussion Basics
- Snare Basics

Week 2:

- Snare Rudiments
- Snare Rudiment Exercises
- PLAYING TEST: Snare Rudiments

Week 3:

- Snare Etudes

Week 4:

- Snare Etudes
- PLAYING TEST: Snare Etudes

Week 5:

- Bass Drum Basics
- Toms/Tenor Drums Basics

Week 6:

- Mallets Basics
- Xylophone
- Marimba
- Vibraphone
- Chimes

Week 7:

- Mallet Etudes

Week 8:

- Mallet Etudes

Week 9:

- Mallet Etudes
- PLAYING TEST: Mallet Etudes

Week 10:

- Timpani Basics
- Timpani Technique

Week 11:

- Timpani Etudes
- PLAYING TEST: Timpani Etudes

Week 12:

- Cymbal Basics
- Cymbal Etudes

Week 13:

- Accessories: Crotales, Gong/Tam-Tam, Triangle, Tambourine
- Inventory
- Percussion Assignment Chart

Week 14:

- Prepare for Final Exam
- Final Project: Demonstration of teaching beginning percussion techniques in class.

Week 15:

- Final Exam – students will be expected to be able to perform pieces as assigned on the instruments studied this semester. Grade will be determined by technique applied to each instrument.

Recommended Resources:

'The Art of Percussion Playing,' by Cirone, Grover, Whaley

'The Rudimental Cookbook,' by Freytag

'Teaching Band with Excellence, A Comprehensive Curricular, Pedagogical, and Administrative Resource,' by Pearson, Nowlin

'Techniques of Playing Bass Drum, Cymbals, and Accessories (Tambourines, Castanets, Triangle, Tam-Tam),' by Al Payson

'Modern Method for Tympani: Modern Method for Tympani,' by Kohloff, Werdesheim, Cirone

'Musical Studies for The Intermediate Timpanist,' by Whaley

'Modern School for Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone,' by Goldberg

'Portraits in Rhythm,' by Cirone

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