MUSPERF 151, 251, 351, 451, 751, 951: Lessons in Percussion
Course Syllabus| Fall 2017
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Peck School of the Arts

Meeting Days/Times: TBA
Location: Music Building 170 or Zelazo 280
Instructor: Dr. Alex Wier
Email: wier@uwm.edu or acwpercussion@gmail.com
Cell phone: 602-448-2424
Office: Music Building 149
Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to progressively train the student in all aspects of percussion playing, including technique, repertory, and musicianship. Each week, students will be assigned technical material (scale exercises, arpeggio exercises, articulation exercises, tone studies, etc.), etudes, solos, and orchestral excerpts and will be expected to prepare that material for the next lesson. At the next lesson the student will perform the material, at the discretion of the instructor, and the instructor will provide feedback and model proper performance.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION
Private lessons in percussion. Course has eight progressive performance levels. May be retaken with topic change to 8 credit maximum. Concurrent registration in approved performance organization required. Repeat of level only by prior consent of instructor.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled lessons. Students must give a week's notice if they must miss a lesson, and a make-up lesson will be scheduled at the instructor's discretion. See below for more information on attendance policies for assessment.

Accommodations
Students with disabilities or other conditions that require special accommodations are encouraged to identify themselves to the instructor and to the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as early as possible. The ARC website is: http://uwm.edu/arc

University Policies
For all University Policies, visit: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Percussion Studio Policies
See the “Percussion Studio Information” document for more information on expectations of being a percussion student at UWM.

TIME EXPECTATIONS
Students should plan to practice an average of at least two hours per day on lesson preparation and listening assignments. This is a minimum. Most students will find that they need to allocate more than that in order to complete their assignments.
REQUIRED MATERIALS

Equipment
- Professional level sticks and mallets in good working condition
- Metronome and tuner
- A black towel (at least one)
- A pencil and notebook

Printed Materials
Students will be required to purchase books and sheet music based on need, as determined by the instructor.

ASSESSMENT

Lesson Preparation and Progress (70% of final grade)
At each lesson, students will be assigned material to be prepared for the next lesson. Students are expected to arrive at each lesson on time and warmed up, to have prepared all of the material as well as possible, and to approach each lesson as a performance. Each lesson will be graded, taking into account the students’ performance, preparation, and musical/technical growth.

Juries (20% of final grade)
All students, except those who performed a required solo recital during that semester, will perform a jury in front of the faculty. A pianist (to be arranged and paid for by the students) is required for pieces that have accompaniment, and each juror will grade the performance. The average of those grades will be the jury grade. The jury date and time for Fall 2017 is December 18th, from 9am to Noon.

Percussion Event Attendance (10% of final grade)
Students are required to attend all clinics and performances given by percussion students, percussion faculty, and percussion guest artists. Absences will be excused at the instructor’s discretion.

Attendance
- Attendance at all lessons is required. Students must give the instructor a week’s notice if they have a conflict with a scheduled lesson. A make-up lesson may be scheduled at the instructor’s discretion. In the case of illness, a note from the doctor may be required. The instructor will reschedule in the event that he must miss a lesson.
- Missing a lesson without notification will be calculated into the final grade in the following way: 1) first unexcused absence is a half letter grade deduction, 2) second unexcused absence is a further full letter grade deduction, and 3) three or more unexcused absences can result in a failing grade for the semester.
- Consistent or excessive tardiness will result in deductions from the final grade.

Grading Scale

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92-100 = A   90-91 = A-   88-89 = B+   82-87 = B   80-81 = B-   78-79 = C+
72-77 = C   70-71 = C-   68-69 = D+   62-67 = D   60-61 = D-   59 or less = F
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