**MUSPERF 551: Master Class in Percussion**  
**Course Syllabus | Fall 2017**  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Peck School of the Arts

Meeting Days/Times: Wednesdays, 12-12:50pm  
Location: 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**

This course provides a forum for performance, special topics, and pedagogy training.

**Performance**
- Each student will perform individually and be coached by faculty members. During these sessions, faculty will address performance, preparation, and pedagogy issues that pertain both to the performer and to the entire group. Students will be asked to share their observations and impressions of the performance.
- Students will rehearse and perform ensembles and orchestral excerpts.

**Special topics**
Some class periods will be devoted to one or more discussion topics such as performance anxiety, audition preparation, mallet wrapping, sight reading, etc. Additionally, all students will complete a listening/writing assignment.

**Pedagogy**
The teaching of percussion playing will be central to all classroom activities. During individual performance sessions, the faculty will approach their coaching with a bias toward general percussion teaching methods. During group performance sessions, the faculty will demonstrate effective approaches to teaching ensemble skills.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**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.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Higher level of individual performance
   - Performance experience is essential for student development.
   - Input from fellow students and teachers other than the primary lesson instructor is valuable.
2. Increased level of ensemble performance skills
   - By performing ensembles/orchestral excerpts under the supervision of the faculty, students will learn to function better in ensemble settings.
3. Better understanding of how to teach young percussion players
   - All activities will be connected to pedagogy.
4. Enhanced listening and writing skills.
   - The listening/writing assignment is designed to help students learn to write about music and percussion playing in a clear manner.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Equipment as required in lessons
- Printed music as assigned

ASSESSMENT

Attendance and Participation (80% of final grade)
- Students will attend all classes and be prepared to perform when assigned.
- Absences will be excused at the instructor’s discretion. Please give at least 24 hours advanced notice if you need to be absent for a reason other than illness.
- Each unexcused absence will result in a lowering of the semester grade by 1/3rd of a letter grade (ex: A to A-, A- to B+, etc.).
- All students must perform at least twice per semester.
- All students are expected to participate in classroom discussions.

Listening/Writing Assignment (20% of final grade)
- Students will be given a listening/writing assignment to be turned in before the week of Thanksgiving.

Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-91</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>88-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>82-87</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-81</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>78-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>72-77</td>
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<td>68-69</td>
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<td>62-67</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-61</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>59 or less</td>
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