MUSPERF 318: Percussion Pedagogy and Techniques
Course Syllabus | Spring 2018
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Peck School of the Arts

Meeting Days/Times: MW 11-11:50 AM
Location: Zelazo 280
Instructor: Dr. Alex Wier
Email: wier@uwm.edu
Office: Music 149
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides the student with instruction in the performance and pedagogy of instruments in the percussion family. Basic performance competency is expected and is measured through playing assessments. Teaching strategies and resources for instructing percussionists in K-12 school settings are emphasized.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1) For the wide range of percussion instruments in the drum, keyboard, auxiliary, world music, and drumset categories, learn the:
   - Proper performance techniques
   - Tonal possibilities and proper implements (sticks, mallets, beaters, hands, etc.)
   - Different parts of the instruments, their acoustic properties, and ranges
   - Proper way to set-up, tear-down, move, and store the instruments
2) Pedagogical techniques and resources for the K-12 music teacher working with percussion
   - Descriptions, approaches, exercises, and expectations
   - Resources for students of different experience levels and for educators continuing their education available as method books, musical repertoire, articles, and online pages and databases.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
- One pair of drumsticks (Ex: Vic Firth 5A or SD1, or similar size in another brand)
- Drum pad (Ex: HQ Reel Feel 6”/12”, Remo tunable pad 6-8”, Vic Firth 6”/12”, etc.)

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

Attendance
This is a professional course and part of the sequence of courses designed to help students enter successfully into the career they have chosen. One absence is allowed per semester to account for illness or religious holidays. Three tardies count as one absence. Each additional absence will result in a 5% deduction from the overall grade calculated at the end of the semester.
Participation and civility
It is expected that students participate fully in all class activities and discussions and come prepared with the requisite assignments and materials to do so. In addition, students are expected to follow normal classroom etiquette such as not using cell phones, personal electronic devices, or headphones and not being disruptive. Students are expected to listen when someone else is speaking and to be civil and respectful when interacting with others. Students whose behavior interferes with the learning process and the flow of class will be asked to leave the classroom.

Academic Misconduct
Cheating on exams and plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

Course D2L Page
All due dates and assignments are updated frequently on D2L. Students should regularly check the class page to ensure that they are prepared for class and have submitted the required assignments by the assigned due dates.

ASSESSMENT

Digital Course Notebook
At the conclusion of the semester, students will submit a digital course notebook that contains a collection of handouts, lecture notes, assignments, exams, and other relevant materials. The notebook will be a valuable resource as a professional.

Clinic and Performance Attendance
Each student is required to attend at least one percussion-centric performance or clinic during the course of the semester. A one-page observation report and a copy of the program for a performance should be submitted. If not specified by the instructor, the student should seek approval for a performance/clinic to ensure that the event meets course criteria before attending.

Chapter Assignments
Homework assignments are based on reading assignments for chapters in the textbook. The assignments are drawn directly from the book and help assess student progress with the assigned reading and the retention of the textbook material.

Writing Assignment
Students will teach a keyboard lesson to a high school percussion student based on their performance via youtube. The assignment must be 3-4 pages in length (not including a page of cited references). The instructor will provide the student (video) and also provide the sheet music.

Examinations
There are four playing examinations. Students will perform rudiments, exercises, and etudes for the instructor and be graded on the quality of performance and preparation. The playing exams may also include a short interview about the material covered if time allows. There is a written midterm and final, which will consist of short and long answers. The midterm includes a teaching demonstration and the final exam is comprehensive.
### Grading Breakdown and Scale

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Course Notebook</td>
<td>(50 pts.)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinic/Performance Attendance and Summary</td>
<td>(25 pts.)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignments</td>
<td>(100 pts.)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Review Writing Assignment</td>
<td>(50 pts.)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playing Exams (4 total = 20, 20, 20, 40)</td>
<td>(100 pts.)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Teaching Demonstration</td>
<td>(50 pts.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Written Exam</td>
<td>(50 pts.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(75 pts.)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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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

This syllabus is subject to change based upon the progress of the class. Any changes in the course requirements or policies will be clearly communicated.

### ORDER OF TOPICS

This is the schedule of topics to be covered over the course of the semester (approximately). The new topics will be added to the continuing discussion and practice of prior topics (and not completely separate content each week).

- **Week 1** – Overview of percussion, grip and stroke basics
- **Week 2** – Overview of snare drum, dynamics, flams
- **Week 3** – Flam rudiments, open and closed rolls
- **Week 4** – Bass drum and cymbals
- **Week 5** – Overview of timpani
- **Week 6** – Timpani, triangle, tambourine
- **Week 7** – Auxiliary percussion instruments
- **Week 8** – Review all and Midterm written exam and teaching demonstration

Spring Break

- **Week 9** – Overview of keyboard percussion
- **Week 10** – Four mallet playing
- **Week 11** – Marching percussion, care and maintenance
- **Week 12** – Percussion ensemble and multiple-percussion
- **Week 13** – Large ensemble playing and musical interpretation
- **Week 14** – Drumset
- **Week 15** – World percussion