

Youngstown State University Fall 2018
MUSAC 3763 CRN 40289 PERCUSSION METHODS SYLLABUS
T-Th - 9:00-9:50am, Bliss Hall 2326

Instructor: Ed Davis
email: ejdavis@ysu.edu
office hours: by appointment

This syllabus is a course contract between you and your instructor. Please read it and discuss any concerns you have with Professor Davis during the first week of classes. Your enrollment in the course signifies your acceptance of the policies contained herein.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

Percussion Methods is designed for music education majors pursuing teaching careers in K-12 music instruction. Course objectives include study of rhythm, sound production, repertoire, and pedagogy on snare drum, marching percussion, drumset, keyboards, timpani, and orchestral accessories. Percussion majors may take this course as part of their music pedagogy requirement and will assist the faculty in this course.

COURSE FEE:

A \$35 fee is assessed to offset costs of materials provided in this course. These include: one pair concert snare drum sticks, rental snare drum/pad, practice mallets, and access to YSU percussion practice room and instruments.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. **Course textbook:** Cook, Gary. Teaching Percussion, 3rd Edition (with 2 DVDs) Thomson Schirmer. 2005. ISBN: 978-0534509903 Available at the YSU bookstore and at other online resources.
2. **A YSU snare drum kit:** please sign out via the instrument library. This must be returned by the final class period in the same condition it was issued. You are financially responsible for any damage or loss. Late returns will result in a "PR" grade issued until the kit is returned. If the kit is not returned, an "F" will be issued, and you will be charged for the full replacement value.
3. **One pair of concert snare drum sticks:** will be given to you. Loss or damage will require replacement of the same model at your time and expense (@ \$10 per pair).

FUNDAMENTAL LEARNING GOALS:

an effective course should involve six types of learning:

1. **Foundational knowledge:** you should understand and remember the basic content of the course including fundamental concepts of percussion equipment, related sound production techniques, and pedagogical techniques and methods applicable in K-12 music education. The course consists of lectures, demonstrations, discussions, in-class playing, individual practice, in-class playing exams, reading assignments, written concert critiques, percussion lesson observation and analysis paper.
2. **Application:** you should use the content and engage in effective and appropriate kinds of thinking.
3. **Integration:** you should integrate different disciplines, major ideas, and realms of life.
4. **Human dimension:** you should identify the personal and social implications of this knowledge.

- 5. Caring:** you should develop new feelings, interests, and values in relation to the subject.
- 6. Learning how to learn:** you should continue learning about the subject after the course is over.

COURSE POLICIES:

Phones: Cell phones, and other distractions must be turned-off. Notify me before class if you are expecting an emergency call. I reserve the right to confiscate your phone/tablet if you do not put it away.

Clothing/Attire: Lewd, questionable attire, or other inappropriate or impractical attire is not appropriate. Violations will result dismissal and an unexcused absence recorded. Because of the physical nature of playing percussion instruments, I recommend slacks and a loose fitting shirt. Skirts, dresses, high-heel shoes, or tight clothing will compromise your ability to effectively perform. Remove any jewelry that makes noise or may damage the instruments, especially watches, bracelets and rings.

Food and beverages: (unless beverage in a thermos/water bottle) are not permitted.

Email communication: Emails are letters. Use a proper salutation, write complete sentences with full spelling, and sign your name.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment should compare you to a set of expectations and not to the performance of other students. These expectations must be mutually understood and documented by you and your instructor. You should learn cooperatively and yet individual assessment must be performed on you. The graded requirements for this course include **attendance, rehearsal and concert attendance, written assignments, performance tests and one exam.**

ATTENDANCE

Our class will often involve group pedagogy and ensemble activities; it will not function well if students are not present. You are expected to attend every class session and to be on time. In the event of a true emergency (i.e., death of a family member or serious illness, which requires a written medical excuse), phone or email the instructor before class. Absences not approved by the instructor in advance are “unexcused.” Each successive unexcused absence after the first will result in a grade reduction by 2%. Excessive tardiness will be handled at the discretion of the instructor.

Excused absences will be granted for:

- 1) Special event (tour, field trip, conference, etc.) related to academic work required as part of a YSU academic department course in which you are enrolled. Submit a memo from the sponsoring professor.
- 2) Documented court-ordered appearance.
- 3) Absences due to serious illness and documented by a letter from a certified medical practitioner.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments will be turned in via Blackboard on the MyYSU Portal.

1. **Percussion Lesson Observation Report** - See Dr. Schaft to schedule a lesson observation appointment. You will observe a 50-minute percussion major applied lesson in which you should take notes. Write a report discussing the pedagogical methods you observed. The observation must be completed by **Sept. 27** and the report will be due by **Oct. 11.**

2. **Percussion Ensemble Concert Analysis** - You must attend a percussion performance and write an analysis report. Your analysis should include:

- a) Instrument layout
- b) Performer etiquette
- c) Observations of playing techniques
- d) Analysis of the pieces
- e) Your thoughts on how the above might have affected the programming

*You may find it beneficial to interview the performers in order to enhance your understanding of what, how, and why they did what they did. (The performers can also answer questions about instrument names, playing techniques, instrument set-ups, etc.). The analysis paper is due by **Nov. 20**.

Important Percussion Dates-Fall Semester 2018

Oct 24 – PE Concert, Butler Institute of American Art, Noontime Series, 12:15PM

Nov 13 - PE Concert, 7:30PM, Spotlight Theater, featuring Ron Coulter and the Youngstown Percussion Collective

*More events and/or up to date events schedule can be found on the YSU percussion web site (below). Some non-YSU percussion events may apply - confirm with Professor Davis first.

3. **Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal Observation Report** - Attend a YSU Percussion Ensemble rehearsal and write a brief observation. Note and include:

- a) Differences between a percussion ensemble rehearsal and your own chamber or large ensemble experiences.
- b) Instrument set-up
- c) Any logistical concerns that may affect you as a future music educator.

The Percussion Ensemble meets in Rm. 2326 and the adjacent percussion rooms Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:00pm. Arrive at 3:15pm (or slightly before the later scheduled start times), as the set-up occurs before the rehearsal. Please check the YSU Percussion website (<http://percussion.ysu.edu/calendar/weekly-studio-schedule.html>) for specific scheduling. The latest rehearsal you can observe is **Nov. 6** and the report is due by **Nov 20**.

4. **Philosophy of Percussion Education Statement** - This document should be completed toward the end of the semester and is due on **Dec. 6**. You should reflect on what you've learned over the semester and provide a statement of what your approach to teaching percussion in the future will entail.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES:

1. Format: Double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-point Times New Roman font. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted. Use Turabian/Chicago Style for humanities citation (refer to maag.guides.ysu.edu/citations/chicago) or MLA Style for research papers (refer to maag.guides.ysu.edu/citations/mla).

2. Proofread all work. Do NOT rely on your software's spell check and grammar check. Three or more spelling, documentation, and/or grammatical errors will result in a reduced grade.

3. Late assignments: 1/2 letter grade will be deducted for each class day that the assignment is late. If you plan to submit a late assignment, see me ASAP.

TESTS

Performance Juries: These are individual skill tests on the following instruments/skill sets: Rhythm, Snare Drum, Mallet Keyboard, Timpani, Accessory, and Drumset. You will play rudiments and assigned music from your textbook. Juries will take place during or after class.

Practice:

A. Individual and/or group practice (outside of class) is necessary to develop sufficient competency to pass the individual performance juries, however limited practice space is available for this purpose. This may be an inconvenience, but is the reality for multi-instrumentalists who share resources. This will help you understand how to organize facilities at your school for effective percussion practice.

B. A key for practice room # 3116 is available for sign-out in the Dana office. Lock the door whenever you leave as you are responsible for any loss or damage. A case (marked "Percussion Methods") containing appropriate mallets is exclusively for your use. Return the mallets to this case before leaving the room. Notify the instructor of any concerns you may have with equipment. The room should contain a snare drum, xylophone and/or marimba, triangle, tambourine, crash cymbals, and a case of mallets. A practice room sign-up schedule is affixed to the door. If you are more than ten minutes late you will forfeit your reservation.

*Please return the key to the office when you are finished!

FINAL EXAM:

This written exam will take place during finals week on **Tuesday, Dec. 11 @ 10:30am**. The questions will be in various formats (e.g. multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in the blank). A true emergency of which you notify me in advance or a scheduled athletic game will allow you to make up a missed exam without penalty. It is your responsibility to arrange for a mutually convenient time with the instructor.

GRADING POINT BREAKDOWN

Attendance/Class participation	10
Lesson Observation Report	10
PE Rehearsal Observation	10
PE Concert Critique	10
Philosophy of Percussion Education	10
Performance Juries (5 x 5)	25
Final Exam	25
TOTAL	100

GRADE SYSTEM: This course follows the standard grading system as detailed in the Youngstown State University Undergraduate Student Bulletin:

A = 90-100% B= 80-89% C= 70-79% D= 60-69% F= 0-59%

The Dana School of Music grading policy states you must receive a "C" or higher in each required degree course for that grade to count toward your degree.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: Course Overview, Pedagogy, & Philosophy of Education

Week 2-3: Rhythm – Learning and Teaching the Fundamentals

Week 4-6: Snare Drum - Rudimental and Orchestral styles (**Sept. 27 - last day to observe a lesson**)

Week 7: Marching Percussion

Week 8-9 Keyboard Percussion (**Oct. 11- Lesson Observations Due**)

Week 10: Swing Week

Week 11-12: Timpani

Week 12-13: Accessory Percussion Instruments (**Nov. 6 - last day to observe PE reh.**)

Week 14-16: Drumset, hand drums (**Nov. 20 - PE reh. obs. & PE concert obs. due, Nov. 22 - no class, Dec. 6 - Philosophy of Education Due**)

Final Exam: Tuesday Dec. 11 – 10:30am-12:30pm

*** Course content may deviate from the syllabus at the discretion of the instructor.**

Americans with Disabilities Act: In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, located at 275 Fifth Avenue, and provide a letter of accommodation to verify your eligibility. You can reach CSP Disability Services at (330) 941- 1372.

Center for Student Progress is a resource to help students successfully complete their university experience. Phone (330) 941-3538 or visit the Center for assistance. The main Center is located in Kilcawley West below the bookstore. CSP Disability Services is located at 275 Fifth Ave.

Disability Accommodations: Youngstown State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternative format upon request. In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, located at 275 Fifth Avenue, and provide a letter of accommodation to coordinate reasonable accommodations. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372.

Non-Discrimination Statement from the University: Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion or veteran/military status in its programs or activities. Please visit www.yzu.edu/ada-accessibility for contact information for persons designated to handle questions about this policy.

Center for Student Progress is a resource to help students successfully complete their university experience. Phone (330) 941-3538 or visit the Center for assistance.

The Student One Stop is an enrollment resource on campus established to help students manage their academic record and accounts. Please visit the Student One Stop (second floor Meshel Hall) or call (330) 941- 6000 for assistance with financial aid, records, registration, and tuition charges/billing.