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This is a document of understanding between you and Dr. Schaft. Please discuss any concerns you have with him during the first week of classes. Your enrollment signifies your understanding of its policies.

Catalog Number: MUEN 0009, CRN 40369, Bliss Hall 2326

Instructor:

Glenn Schaft, DMA – Professor of Music, Percussion Coordinator

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Office hours: Dr. Schaft provides five office hours per week as per the YSU-OEA (Ohio Education Association) contract and these are posted on his schedule. Walk-ins are welcome but please make an appointment to guarantee my availability. Part-time faculty and graduate teaching assistants are not required to provide office hours.

Email communication with your instructor: should be treated as professional correspondence. Use a proper salutation, full words, complete sentences, correct spelling and grammar, and your electronic signature including your mobile phone number. Texting or voicemail is not acceptable except in an emergency.

Required supplies:

1. **PE Folder.** A folder labeled PE will be given you. You are responsible for it and its contents. Bring it to all PE rehearsals and private lessons.
2. **Pencil with eraser** – bring to all rehearsals
3. **Drum key**
4. **Ear Plugs** Earasers, or other options Hearos High Fidelity, Vic Firth High Fidelity, or Eargazm ear plugs. These brands are similar products, ca. \$15-20, purchase no more than 20-25 dB sound attenuation (reduction). Cheap foam plugs are not acceptable for a musician, but good for jack hammer or chain saw use.
5. **Metronome** Either a stand-alone electronic metronome such as Tama Rhythm Watch or Dr. Beat or a mobile phone met app; I recommend “Flex Beat” or “Tempo”, with sound attenuating headphones or form-fit ear buds that provide hearing protection. Labeled with your name.

Ensemble admittance and enrollment: Admittance is granted via an audition and permission of the Percussion Coordinator and is typically limited to percussion majors. Majors are typically advised to register for PE concurrent with each semester of applied percussion lessons unless otherwise advised by Dr. Schaft.

Ensemble objectives–learning outcomes:

- Develop effective teamwork skills.
- Develop chamber music skills including: pre-rehearsal preparation, positive attitude in all situations, reading and memorization, group breathing and conducting skills, stage presence and concert etiquette.
- Foster an understanding of diverse percussion ensemble literature through listening and research, individual practice, group rehearsals, performances, and recording sessions.
- Experience improvisation, arranging, and composition individually and as a group.
- Select upper division undergraduate and graduate students are expected to serve as musical directors.

Part assignments: are made in consideration of:

- Results of ensemble auditions, juries, and applied percussion course achievement.
- Effective artistic programming.
- Student aptitude and experience - every effort is made to effectively match part assignments with your ability, i.e. challenging yet attainable.

- Previous achievement in this course.

Rehearsals:

- Tue/Thur 3:30-5p.m.
- Gear set-up 3-3:30pm.
- Weekly Schedule of rehearsal repertoire and times are published (typically Friday) under the Media pull-down tab at percussion.yosu.edu
- Percussion Seminar (Friday 12-12:50pm) may be used for PE preview performances.

Performances include two feature-length evening concerts at the Dana School of Music and two Butler Institute of American Art "Music At Noon" performances each academic year. Off-campus performances typically include the Ohio Music Educators Association Professional Conference, Percussive Arts Society Ohio Day of Percussion, concerts at universities and various arts organizations, studio commissioning and recording projects, and K-12 school assemblies. Performance dates are published on our homepage at percussion.yosu.edu and are listed no later than the first day of each semester.

Performances/Dress Rehearsal Dates:

TBA

Final Exam Period: Will be used for studio related activities and attendance is required. Generally, it is the Thursday of Finals Week from 3:15-5:15PM.

Repertoire: includes classic 20th century works, contemporary music, composer commissions, student compositions, marimba ensemble, group improvisation, Drum Circle, and various Latin/world folkloric percussion styles such as West African, Afro-Cuban, and Brazilian. PE often includes collaborative repertoire with other instrumentalists, vocalists, dancers, theater, electronics, multi-cultural folkloric traditions, and so on, in short, a prime laboratory for collaborative learning across the university.

Music: You are responsible for the music lent you. Be sure your name appears, in pencil, on each piece. Bring the music to all private lessons. Return music as requested after concerts. You must buy any music (entire score and parts) you lose or damage.

Instrument set-up and transport: Everyone must assist with rehearsal and concert gear set-up and transport. No one is excused from a service until we have returned everything to its proper location. Call times will be posted on the studio website weekly schedule

Grading policy: The process of assessing an individual's work in a musical ensemble (i.e. team) is partly determined by the achievement of other ensemble (team) members. I grade according to my expectation of appropriate repertoire for your applied course level, your potential, and your realization of it. I expect a positive attitude, ability to establish clear and realistic goals, self-motivation, consistency of effort, punctuality, reliability, attention to detail, receptiveness to coaching and criticism, and the inevitable growth and accomplishment that comes from nurturing these traits.

A professional attitude consists of arriving with a specific purpose in mind, quiet attention to rehearsal instructions, enthusiasm for the task at hand, always having a pencil, and a courteous teamwork orientated demeanor. These qualities—the desire to raise the achievement of your colleagues—determine your value as an ensemble member.

Master your parts through individual practice prior to rehearsals. Failure to adequately prepare instruments, setups, or music will result in a grade reduction for that rehearsal. If you must be replaced on a piece due to a lack of preparation, your grade will be reduced by a minimum of 20%. If a work must be canceled from a performance due to your lack of preparation, you will receive an "F" in the course.

Musical expression. Since effective musical expression has to do with one's personality and ability to express emotion, I have included descriptions of some of the attitudes and behaviors that typically correlate with each letter grade. Clearly, assigning letter grades to emotions and behaviors is subjective business, so either the teacher and student avoid such subject matter and merely address technical

mechanics—course content that is more easily “objectively letter graded”—or they embrace this subjectivity that is a central element of all music making. Interestingly, it is not the content of musical expression that is difficult or subjective to assess, rather it is made more subjective and difficult to assess within the confines of the letter grade system. When one minimizes letter grading, musical expression can then be effectively assessed.

Grading Scale – The Dana School of Music grading policy states you must receive a “C” or higher in each course for it to count toward your degree program.

- Grade A, 90-100% – includes: superior attendance, superior achievement of weekly and semester goals, consistent positive attitude, and a complete commitment to attaining your potential. You love what you do and it shows through your passion, dedication, and achievement.
- Grade B, 80-89% – Slightly less than letter grade “A” above.
- Grade C, 70-79% – May include flawed attendance, partial achievement of weekly or semester goals, inconsistent attitude or progress, and/or a partial commitment to attaining your potential. Your passion, dedication, and achievement are questionable or inconsistent, and it shows.
- Grade D, 60-69% – May include flawed attendance, partial achievement of weekly or semester goals, inconsistent attitude, or a partial commitment to attaining your potential. Your passion, dedication, and achievement are often questionable and it shows.
- Grade F, 0-59% – May include significant disregard for any of the above or a minimal achievement of your potential.
- Grades of “incomplete” or “PR”: See the YSU Bulletin “Grading System”. The only valid reason for an incomplete, or PR grade, is for a medical or other reason so extreme as to cause you to be unable to complete the course. You must be passing the course at the time of your request and demonstrate that the circumstances requiring the “PR” are beyond your control.

Attendance is required at all PE classes and events, unless otherwise indicated by your director. Your presence is necessary to realize the community of learners and collaborative nature of the ensemble. When you miss a rehearsal two things happen, first you miss the experience unique to that particular rehearsal and it cannot be recreated, and second, your absence reduces the learning of your colleagues.

- **First semester PE members** are required to attend all rehearsals until notified otherwise, in order to learn rehearsal protocol, ensemble techniques, and chamber music repertoire.
- Percussion ensemble **concerts and events** are posted on our website homepage no later than week one of fall semester.
- If you notice a **schedule conflict** with any Percussion Ensemble related event or portion thereof, regardless of how far in advance, immediately notify Dr. Schaft. Use standard memo format: to, from, date, description of the event, and explain why you were absent or anticipate being absent. Dr. Schaft will reply, usually within a week, to indicate if your request is excused or unexcused. You may be responsible for securing a qualified substitute and providing them your music and instruments necessary.
- **Excused absences** will be granted for:
 - Death in the immediate family.
 - 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.
 - Documented court summons. Submit a copy of the summons.
 - Absences due to serious illness and documented by a letter from a certified medical practitioner will be considered in light of your attendance history. In many cases, an excused absence is granted. A minor cold or accepting a gig is not justification for an excused absence.
- **Unexcused absence** will reduce your final course grade. The penalty will be determined in consideration of the significance of the event missed and your attendance history. Each unexcused absence shall equal a 10% grade deduction. One tardy equals 1/2 absence or 5%.

• Course Etiquette:

- All students shall share in our gear related logistical duties of transporting, setting-up, and tearing-down for each PE event including rehearsals, student recitals, percussion ensemble concerts, percussion seminar class, group lessons, convocations, etc.
- If you fall asleep in a rehearsal you will be dismissed and an unexcused absence recorded.
- Cell phones and other electronic distractions must be turned-off. Each interruption will count as a one-half absence. Bluetooth earpieces are not permitted. Nevertheless, bring your phone to every rehearsal as I may ask you to look-up information, photograph an instrument or setup, or video record.
- Hats, lewd or questionable attire, or other inappropriate or impractical (to play the instruments) attire are not appropriate. Violations will result in dismissal and that period counted as an absence. I recommend slacks and a loose-fitting shirt and no skirts, dresses, high-heel shoes, or tight clothing.
- Avoid jewelry that makes noise or may damage the instruments, especially rings, bracelets, and metal or bulky watchbands.
- Food or drinks, except bottled water, are not permitted.
- **Concert Attire:** Generally, we wear dress quality garments—black slacks, dress shoes, dress socks, belt, and black dress shirt with a collar. No suits, vests, ties, tennis shoes, ball caps, jeans, t-shirts, athletic wear, or clothing with a logo.
- **Concert Call Times:** You must be available for the entire call period as posted on the percussion website weekly schedule. Generally, our call for an 7:30 p.m. concert will be 5:00 p.m. – for set-up and sound check. The call for a noon Butler Concert is 11a.m. and load-out will be completed by approximately 1:30pm. Please notify your professors of any classes affected by these call times no later than the end of week one.

Disability Accommodations: *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. To coordinate reasonable accommodations, you must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, located in Kilcawley Center Room 2082. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372.*

Non-Discrimination Statement: *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.yosu.edu/ada-accessibility for contact information for persons designated to handle questions about this policy.*

Center for Student Progress YSU is committed to your academic success. As a student, you have access to this learning support programs at no charge:

What: Academic Coaching, Supplemental Instruction, and Tutoring in a variety of courses

When: By appointment. Monday - Thursday 8:00am – 6:00pm, Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Where: Kilcawley Center West (near Dunkin Donut entrance)

Email: blvarian@ysu.edu

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), (330) 941-6000, onestop@ysu.edu. for assistance with financial aid, records, registration, and tuition charges/billing.

Class Cancellation: If this class is being cancelled for any single day due to instructor illness, or other reasons, an e-mail will be sent to your YSU e-mail account as soon as possible, and a cancelled class notice will be put on the classroom door. University-wide class cancellation is a decision made by the President's Office, and officially announced via the YSU homepage and on WYSU (88.5 FM) radio. Students should register at the YSU Portal to receive a text message about University-Wide closures via the Emergency Alert Notification System.

CORONAVIRUS SYLLABUS STATEMENT

(approved by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, July 28, 2020) The following policy applies and shall be enforced during the current coronavirus pandemic as recognized by the State of Ohio.

As a consequence of the current coronavirus pandemic, students are expected to abide by all safety and health policies implemented by the University's Office of Environmental Occupational Health and Safety as well as all applicable local, state, and federal mandates. Currently, the City of Youngstown and the State of Ohio mandates a face covering/mask in public spaces. Consistent with federal, state and local guidelines, University Health Guidelines require that all individuals within campus buildings, including students, properly wear face coverings except when working alone within an enclosed area. Face coverings are in addition to maintaining appropriate social distancing when possible. Exceptions to wearing a face covering in a classroom or laboratory must be for justifiable reasons as approved by the Office of Disability Services (<https://ysu.edu/center-for-student-progress/disability-services>). Repeated violations of any coronavirus safety and health policy shall be handled in accord with *The Student Code of Conduct* (<https://ysu.edu/student-conduct/code-conduct>).

Adjustments to this syllabus based on current covid-19 circumstances: Things will change as the disease situation changes and your flexibility and understanding is appreciated.