

*Youngstown State University*

*Spring 2018*

## **MUAC 3763 PERCUSSION METHODS SYLLABUS**

M-W 9:00-9:50am, Bliss Hall 2326

**Instructor:** Ed Davis

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**phone:** 614.214.7525

**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.

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

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. **Three-ring notebook** (2 inch minimum) to house your syllabus, portfolio, class notes, etc. Bring to each class.
2. **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.
3. **A YSU snare drum kit** will be signed-out to you and must be returned at 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 pad is returned. If the pad is not returned, an “F” will be issued, and you will be charged for the pad.
4. **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, written rehearsal critiques and 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:**

If you fall asleep you will be dismissed and an unexcused absence will be recorded.

**Cell phones**, pagers, alarm watches, 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** 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.

**No Hats** This will allow me to see your face to identify you and gauge how you are receiving new information. It will also encourage open discussion with your classmates.

**Jewelry** Remove any jewelry that makes noise or may damage the instruments, especially watches, bracelets and rings.

**Food and beverages** (other than water) 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 will be considered in light of your attendance history. In some cases, an excused absence may be granted. A minor cold or accepting a gig is not justification for an excused absence.

## **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and PORTFOLIO CONTENTS**

You will develop a portfolio (three-ring notebook mentioned in required supplies above) that documents your coursework and this is due at the ***last regular class (April 25)***. It should contain a title/cover page with your name, date, course title, and instructor’s name, and five sections organized, in order, as explained below. Each section should be marked by a divider sheet with a tab listing the section title and placed as the first page of that section.

**1. Philosophy of Percussion Education Statement.** This document should be completed toward the end of the semester and is due on ***April 25*** with the rest of the notebook. 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.

**2. Percussion Lesson Observation Report.** See Dr. Schaft (in person) to schedule a lesson observation appointment. You will observe a 50-minute percussion major applied lesson in which you should take notes and write a report discussing the pedagogical methods you observed. The observation must be completed by ***February 16*** and ***the report is due by February 28.***

**3. Percussion Ensemble Concert Analysis.** You must attend a percussion performance and write an analysis report. Your analysis should include discussion of instrument layout, performer etiquette, observations of playing techniques, analysis of the pieces and 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.) ***Staple a copy of the concert program to your analysis.***

**4. Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal Observation Report** - Attend a YSU Percussion Ensemble rehearsal and write a brief observation. Note and include the differences between a percussion ensemble rehearsal and your own chamber or large ensemble experiences, instrument set-up and 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 from 3:00 -7:00pm. Arrive at 2:45pm, as the set-up occurs before the rehearsal. Please check the YSU Percussion website for specific scheduling, [www.ysu.edu/percussion](http://www.ysu.edu/percussion) . ***The latest rehearsal you can observe is February 27 and the report is due by March 14.***

**5. Notes and Handouts.** Include class notes and reading/study notes. These should legibly written on loose-leaf ruled paper, dated, and chronologically organized. Use a separate set of tabs to organize this information, ideally by instrument.

### **Important Percussion Dates-Spring Semester 2018**

**February 8, 2018** - Percussion Ensemble at OMEA - Columbus Convention Center Rm. 120, 12:30pm

**February 23, 2018** - Percussion Ensemble at the YSU Wind & Percussion Invitational - Stambaugh Auditorium, 7:00pm

**February 26, 2018** - Percussion Ensemble & Concert Band - Stambaugh Auditorium, 7:30pm

**February 28, 2018** - Percussion Ensemble Concert - Butler Institute of American Art, 12:15pm

**March 14, 2018** - Percussion Ensemble Concert w/guest Dr. Andy Harnsberger -Spotlight Theater, 7:30pm

**April 28, 2018** – Marching Drumline Workshop w/guest Tom Gasparrini - Bliss Hall 2326, 9:00am-3:00pm

### **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](http://maag.guides.ysu.edu/citations/chicago)) or MLA Style for research papers (refer to [maag.guides.ysu.edu/citations/mla](http://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: 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 May 2, 2017 8:00-10:00am**. 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.

<b>GRADING</b>	<b>%</b>
Attendance/ Class participation	10
Lesson Observation Report	10
Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal Observation	10
Concert Critique	10
Portfolio	10
Performance Juries (5 x 5)	25
Final Exam	25
TOTAL	100

### **GRADING SCALE**

YSU does not have a University-wide grading scale. Therefore, each YSU instructor may determine what percentage scale to use in his/her class. The college grade is posted to both the high school and college transcript. YSU does define grades in the following manner (quoted from the YSU Undergraduate Catalog):

- The grade of A represents exceptional work in which the student shows that he or she has firmly grasped and achieved the objectives of the course.
- The grade of B indicates very good work and considerable grasp of the essentials of the course.
- The grade of C indicates good work and a usable grasp of the essentials of the course.
- The grade of D indicates a definite, but not necessarily coherent, knowledge of the course.
- The grade of F indicates that the student has not achieved even a minimum grasp of the essentials of the course. This grade can also result from failure to withdraw officially from a course.

These definitions are taken into consideration when a final grade is determined at the end of a course.

The grade system used in this course will adhere to the previous standard scale:

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 (**Jan 15 – No Class**)

Week 4-6: Snare Drum - Rudimental and Orchestral styles

(**Week 6- Last week to observe a lesson**)

Week 7: Marching Percussion

Week 8-9 Keyboard Percussion (**Feb. 27 - Last day to Observe PE rehearsal, Feb. 28 - Lesson Observations Due, March 14 - PE observation due.**)

Week 10: Swing Week (extra time for Keyboards if needed, or early start on Timpani)

Week 11-12: Timpani

Week 12-13: Accessory Percussion Instruments

Week 14-15: Drumset, hand drums (**April 25 - Notebooks/Philosophy of Percussion Pedagogy due**)

**Final Exam: Tuesday May 2, 2018 – 8:00-10:00am**

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

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**YSU Percussion Web Site:** ([www.ysu.edu/percussion](http://www.ysu.edu/percussion)) Contains the YSU percussion events schedule, referrals for teachers, and other valuable information. Please refer to it for any questions on percussion studio events.

**Percussive Arts Society PAS:** A three-month complimentary ePAS membership is available at [www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org). A wealth of knowledge can be obtained from the journals and blogs available.

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**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.ysu.edu/ada-accessibility](http://www.ysu.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.