

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Department of Music**

**Percussion Methods: MUS 133-001**

**Fall 2007**

**Monday & Wednesday 1:00-1:50**

**Instructor: Brian Zator**

**Office #125 Office Phone: 903-886-5299**

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 12:00-1:00**

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**Purpose:**

The Percussion Methods Course is designed to introduce music majors to basic techniques, instruments, ideologies and pedagogical approaches to instruments common to the percussion family. Students will gain knowledge of how to play & teach each major instrument that will enable him/her to recognize the positive qualities needed by a successful grade school percussion student.

**Requirements:**

Students will be required to attend class regularly due to the course's practical, laboratory approach. A minimal amount of outside reading will be required, but considerable time must be devoted to individual practice. Most equipment will be provided, however, students will assume responsibility for any loss or damage. Refer to the Instrument Contract for more details.

**Grading:**

Mid-Term – 20%

Final Exam – 25%

Performance Exams – 30% (10% each)

Mini-research reports – 15% (5% each)

One page critique – 5%

Final Notebook – 5%

- Performance Exams: Students will have a playing exam on snare drum, mallets & timpani and will consist of performing a short etude for Mr. Zator in a one-on-one setting.
- Mini-research reports: Students will be required to summarize on-line and library research on several topics throughout the semester. Free, 3-month on-line memberships to the Percussive Arts Society will be provided to facilitate much of this requirement.
- Critiques: Students will be required to attend the fall percussion ensemble concert and write a one-page critique (single-spaced, 12-point Times font, 1" margins all the way around) regarding the concert held on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Critique due on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Final Notebook: Students will be required to organize their notes, hand-outs, warm-ups, etc. according to instrument. A three ring binder with dividers should be used to label and organize each major class of instruments. The notebook will be due on the Final Exam date. Additional requirements will be detailed throughout the semester.

- Attendance is expected. Your final grade will be lowered one whole letter for each absence after two, excused or unexcused.

**Materials needed:**

- Each student will be responsible for purchasing the following:
  1. One pair of Innovative Percussion IP-LD (or equivalent) concert snare drum sticks
  2. Textbook: *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* by Kennan Wylie
- Each student will have the following equipment checked out to them:
  1. Practice pad
  2. Practice pad stand
  3. Timpani mallets
  4. Keyboard mallets
  5. Stick pouch

**Music Department Mission Statement:**

*The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.*

**University Policies:**

*Students with a disability requiring one or more accommodations must provide a letter to the instructor from the Office of Disability Resources and Services PRIOR to receiving any accommodations. Many accommodations take time to arrange, and retroactive accommodations are not made; therefore, students are encouraged to self-identify with the DSR office as early as possible. If you need accommodations, you should first come by the office which is located in the Halladay Student Services Building—room 303 D; phone Ms. Josie Davis-George at (903) 886-5835; or e-mail Ms. Davis-George at Josie\_Davis-George@TAMU-Commerce.edu.*

# SCHEDULE

## August

- 27 Introduction: discuss syllabus, requirements, checkout materials, etc.
- 29 Snare Drum – Technique & Eighth notes  
**Read:** pp. ii-vii, Step 1-5, Checkpoint A  
**Play:** S.D. Warm-Ups #1-2; Step 3, 5, & Checkpoint A

## September

- 3 Snare Drum – Technique & Sixteenth notes sticking patterns  
**Read:** Step 6-9, Checkpoint B  
**Play:** S.D. Warm-Ups #1-4; Step 7, 9, & Checkpoint B; Tap Timing handout

- 5 Snare Drum – Accents: Down & Up Strokes  
**Read:** Step 15 & 16  
**Play:** S.D. Warm-Ups #1-4 & #10-11; Step 15  
& 16 (play 16<sup>th</sup> notes instead of the rolls in Step 16, exercises 6-8)
- 10 Bass Drum / Snare Drum – Closed/Buzz Rolls (Concert Style)  
**Read:** Step 16a / Step 14  
**Play:** S.D. Warm-Ups #1-4 & #10-11; Step 14
- 12 Snare Drum – Open-Stroke Rolls (Rudimental Style)  
**Read:** Step 10-13, Checkpoint C  
**Play:** S.D. Warm-Ups #5-9; Step 10-13 & Checkpoint C

<i>Week of September 17<sup>th</sup>: Snare Drum performance exam – p. 49</i>
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- 17 Cymbals / Snare Drum – Flams  
**Read:** Step 15a / Step 17 & 18  
**Play:** S.D. Warm-Ups #12-13; Step 17 & 18
- 19 Student teaching, sight-reading & ensemble playing  
**Play:** Ensemble playing Step 15, 15a, 16, & 16a  
**Assignment:** Review Snare Drum techniques, warm-ups, etc.
- 24 Timpani – General Playing Technique  
**Read:** Step 10a & 11a  
**Play:** Step 10a & 11a
- 26 Timpani – Tuning, Muffling, & Rolls  
**Read:** Step 12a & 13a  
**Play:** Step 12a & 13a; p. 39a

## October

- 1 Triangle & Tambourine / Snare Drum – PAS Rudiments  
**Read:** Triangle-Step 17a; Tambourine-Step 18a  
**Play:** PAS Rudiments  
**Mini-Research Report:** Discuss the history and importance of the PAS Rudiments
- 3 Castanets & Small Wood instruments  
**Read:** Castanets & Small Wood instruments Handouts  
**Play:** Etude for Small Wooden Instruments (Learn all parts)

<i>Week of October 8<sup>th</sup>: Timpani performance exam</i>
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- 8 Resonant Metal instruments / Mid-Term Review  
**Read:** Resonant Metal instruments Handout  
**Assignment:** Review for mid-term

**10 Written Mid-Term Exam**

15 Marimba & Xylophone (2 mallets)

**Read:** pp. viii-xv; Step 1a-4a

**Play:** Mr. Zator's "Mallet Warm-Ups" packet (Keys of C, G, D, F & Bb):  
Scales #1-3, Thirds #1, Double Stops #1  
Wylie book: Step 3a & 4a

17 Marimba & Xylophone (2 mallets)

**Read:** Step 5a, 6a, & Checkpoint A1

**Play:** Mr. Zator's "Mallet Warm-Ups" packet (Keys of C, G, D, F & Bb):  
Scales #1-3, Thirds #1, Double Stops #1, Arpeggios #1 (Arpeggios in keys of  
C, F & Bb only)  
Wylie book: Step 5a & 6a

22 Vibraphone, Bells & Chimes

**Read:** Step 7a-9a, Checkpoint B1 & C1

**Play:** Checkpoint B1 (p. 26a, #1 & 4 only); p. 38a

24 Marimba (4 mallets)

**Play:** Mr. Zator's "4-mallet Warm-Ups" packet (Key of C only):

Double Verticals #1

Single Alternating #1

Single Independent – each mallet playing the C scale two octaves

29 Drum-set

**Read:** Step 25a

**Play:** Step 25a

31 *No Class (Mr. Zator at PASIC)*

**November**

***Week of November 5<sup>th</sup>: Mallet performance exam – p. 49a***

5 Review Mallet instruments, Snare Drum, Timpani, & Drum-set

**Play:** Checkpoint C & C1 (learn all parts; drum-set will be added to each etude. Etude #1 will be in a swing-style)

**Mini-Research Report:** Briefly discuss the early jazz history of the drum-set

7 Student Teaching Day

**Assignment:** Review mallet instrument techniques, exercises, etc.

12 World percussion & Steel Drums

**Read:** Misc. Handouts

**Play:** Etude for Latin Instruments (Learn all parts)

14 Drumline  
**Play:** TAMU-C Drumline Warm-Ups – look at all instruments  
“8” on a hand  
Bluecoat Bucks  
4-Grid

19 Drumline  
**Play:** TAMU-C Drumline Warm-Ups – look at all instruments  
“8” on a hand  
Bluecoat Bucks  
4-Grid  
Double Beat  
Chicken and a Roll

26 Instrument selection & organizing percussion sections  
**Read:** Misc. handouts  
**Assignment:** (This counts as one mini-research report.)  
1. Make a list of the top three instrument manufacturers in each of these categories: marimbas, xylophones, vibraphones, chimes, bells, snare drums, timpani, marching equipment  
2. Make a list of the top five stick & mallet manufacturers  
3. Provide web-site addresses for ALL listed companies

28 Care & maintenance  
**Read:** Misc. handouts

## **December**

3 Percussion resources and ensemble rehearsal  
**Read:** Misc. handouts  
**Assignment:** (This counts as one mini-research report.)  
1. Make a list of five percussion music publishers and provide web-site addresses for all listed companies  
2. Make a note of which companies have solo and ensemble music on the Texas PML list  
3. Make a list of three percussion music and instrument distributors w/ web-site addresses

5 Review for Final Exam

**TBA Final Exam – cumulative**  
Final Notebooks due at this time