

Percussion Ensemble Syllabus — Spring 2017

Department of Music | College of Arts & Humanities
University of Central Florida

MUN 2442 | MUN 3443 | MUN 3444 | MUN 3831 | MUN 5445

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Percussion Teaching Studio — Room M105 — (407) 823-6181

www.music.ucf.edu/percussion

Course Description:

Rehearsals each week will be utilized for instruction in both percussion performance techniques and chamber percussion performance skills encompassing the various styles of the avante garde, standard works, marimba band, commercial/jazz, transcriptions, and original student compositions and arrangements. Participating membership and exact instrumentation will vary according to the specifications of each work studied and/or performed.

Course Objectives:

The percussion ensemble provides the percussion student, through rehearsal and performance activities, a chamber ensemble experience comprised of a wide range of repertoire and performance mediums. Development of chamber ensemble skills is at the core of the course objectives, in addition to gaining knowledge of selected percussion ensemble repertoire. The development of sight-reading skills is also an important aspect of this course. The student should develop an understanding of and an ability to apply appropriate and/or correct performance techniques upon all pertinent percussion instruments, many of which are not utilized in any other ensemble. Opportunities for student composition and arranging, in the medium of percussion ensemble, are available to the student and highly encouraged. Individual organizational skills and stage presence will be subject to review and examination as necessary.

Required Equipment:

- The student is responsible for his or her own musical performance needs regarding sticks, mallets, black towels, and other appropriate paraphernalia.
- No text will be required.
- UCF or the instructor will provide all music. All music and its physical condition are the direct personal and financial responsibility of the student.

- Attire for all percussion ensemble performances could be one of three: 1) Dress clothes – shirt and tie for the males, dresses for the females, 2) Black pants, black long-sleeved mock-turtle or solid color, button-up shirts or 3) Tuxedos and black concert dresses (as defined by the instructor), dark socks and shoes (unless changed by instructor). Steel Band attire is light colored pants (white or Khaki), a Hawaiian shirt (approved by the instructor), white shoes and socks.

Library Resources:

- Recordings of the pieces are usually available from the Professor and will be included in the studio Webcourses page when available.
- Research information on the composer and the works is available from the Professor and at the UCF Library.

Evaluation Procedures:

In general, subjective assessments will be made by the instructor regarding preparation, performance competency, attitude, and attendance. More specifically, evaluation criteria will be based upon, but not limited to, the following:

Grade Categories	Description of the requirements	Points
Rehearsal Preparation:	<p><u>Practice individual parts outside of rehearsal.</u> All ensembles require concentrated individual preparation. The quality of any ensemble is only as good as the weakest individual performance.</p> <p>Contribute towards the scheduling and effectiveness of <i>sectional rehearsals</i> whenever necessary.</p>	100
Rehearsal Set-Up:	<p><u>Arrive at a minimum of 30 minutes ahead of rehearsal times</u> for set-up and warm-up. The conductor’s downbeat will take place at the designated rehearsal time. Preparations for rehearsal must be complete at this time. Proper warm-up on all instruments to be played is very important and is considered a responsibility of each member.</p>	50
Performance in Rehearsal:	<p>All ensemble members should always be totally prepared; all instruments present, in working order, and properly tuned. All mallets and paraphernalia are the responsibility of the performer, as are pencils, music markings, auxiliary equipment, tuning equipment, etc.</p> <p>Regarding contributions towards productive and efficient rehearsals, talking during rehearsals should pertain only to immediate ensemble requirements.</p>	100

Special Requirements:	Designed multiple set-ups are the responsibility of each performer. Diagram when necessary; try to be consistent in set-up. (It is a good idea to recheck for possibilities of improved set-ups as the music becomes more familiar and comfortable.) Individual set-ups are first priority, but offer help to individuals with larger or more complex set-ups. Maintain lists of all needed equipment and mallets for each work to be performed: <u>do not leave it to memory</u> . Do not find yourself in performance with instruments or mallets missing.	100
Concert Performance and Equipment moving:	Arrive at set times to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move/Load Equipment 2. Set-up carefully 3. Help others Help others 4. Then warm-up a little (after everyone is set) Active and full participation returning and putting equipment away is required.	150

Technology Requirements:

Technology	Expectations for Use
Webcourses	Webcourses may be used throughout the semester to help disseminate content and to include important resources that pertain to repertoire and the history of the Percussion Ensemble.
Special tools	Computers are provided in studio spaces with necessary software to assist with completing various assignments throughout the semester (compositions, arrangements, analysis, etc...).

Additional Policies:

- **Steel Band Arrangements:** Students in the Steel Drum Class are expected to turn in a band arrangement (Score and Parts) no later than the last day of classes. The piece must be approved by the instructor and written in digital notation.
- **Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absences will lower your final grade one whole letter.**
 - If an absence is necessary, make sure that:
 - You telephone Dr. Anderson’s office at (407) 823-2221 and leave a message.
 - The folder of music arrives at the rehearsal.
 - A competent substitute replaces the absent player, if possible, and...
 - The substitute player has all necessary mallets, auxiliary instruments, and knowledgeable of the necessary set-up (being aware of his/her responsibilities).
 - You may be required to complete a web search assignment as a make-up for an unexcused absence.
- **Concert Dates:** Spring performances will be presented on:
 - April 1 - Florida Day of Percussion (VAB Auditorium)
 - April 2 - Percussion Ensemble Concert (VAB Auditorium)

- April 12 - Percussion Festival (Disney Hall)
- April 14 - Drumming with Voci Dance (Pugh Theater)

Several other performances may be planned during the semester. Every attempt will be made to accommodate the schedules of the members of the ensemble and will be discussed in class or via e-mail. It is the member's responsibility to make every effort to attend all additional ensemble performances and dress rehearsals.

- **Procedures:** Attend all rehearsals and concerts. Do not accept commitments that conflict with scheduled rehearsals and concerts. Percussion ensemble is chamber music requiring the careful balancing of all parts and an understanding of the moment-by-moment role and function of each individual part. This can only be accomplished by the prepared presence of all ensemble members.
- **Part Assignments:** Every effort will be made to distribute parts fairly with regard to the performance abilities of each member of the ensemble. Part assignments will also be made with recognition of the individuals potential for personal and musical success. Part assignments can and will be reassigned when preparation criteria are not met within a reasonable period of time.

Communication:

In accordance with university regulations, your Knights email address and the Webcourses "Inbox" feature will be the primary source of communication regarding pertinent details and information for this course. We will also utilize the Google Group tool and our Slack team to help facilitate email communication. Please plan to check these accounts on a regular basis.

Recording Academic Activity:

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, we will count your large ensemble audition as a "zero" credit assignment as all percussion majors are required to complete the audition process. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. Attendance records will also be used to help document your enrollment.

Academic Integrity:

UCF is committed to a policy of honesty in academic affairs. Conduct that comprises a breach of this policy may result in academic action and disciplinary action. Academic action affects student assignments, examinations or grades. Disciplinary action affects student enrollment status. Please review the behavior standards at: http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/11_behavior.html

Plagiarism Statement:

Work submitted must be your own. The university and the department have a strict policy on cheating and plagiarism. Go to the Golden Rule at <http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu> to review these guidelines.

Accommodations For the Differently-abled:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with

disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

The UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

- **Integrity:** I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
- **Scholarship:** I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
- **Community:** I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
- **Creativity:** I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
- **Excellence:** I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

***Please note, this syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed in lessons, studio class and/or via email.**