

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS - FALL 2014

Department of Music and Theatre | College of Arts and Communication
West Liberty University

MUS 263 Section 01

Instructor: Professor Brian Baldauff

Class Time: T/R 3:30 - 4:45

Office: FA 314

Credit Hours: 1

Phone: 304-336-8513

Class Location: FA 326

Email: brian.baldauff@westliberty.edu

Office Hours: See posted faculty schedule or by appointment.

Course Description:

Rehearsals will be utilized for instruction in both percussion performance techniques and chamber percussion skills encompassing the various styles of the avant-garde, standard works, marimba band, commercial/jazz transcriptions, arrangements, and world percussion. 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 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. 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 paraphernalia.
- No text will be required.
- WLU 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 WLU percussion ensemble performances will be black pants and solid color shirts with black shoes and black socks. Females are allowed to wear black dresses, or can wear pants and the solid shirt. Instructor reserves the right to change the dress code and/or revoke the choice of any student.

Evaluation Procedures:

In general, subjective assessment 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	Weight
Rehearsal Preparation	<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.	25%
Rehearsal Set-Up	Arrive a MINIMUM of 30 minutes ahead of rehearsal times for set-up and warm-up. The conductor's downbeat will take place at the designated rehearsal time. Preparations for rehearsal must be complete by this time. Proper warm-up on all instruments to be played is very important and is considered the responsibility of each member.	10%
Performance in Rehearsal	All ensemble members should always be totally prepared; all instruments 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. All talking in rehearsals should pertain only to immediate ensemble requirements.	25%
Special Requirements	Designed multiple set-ups are the responsibility of each performer. Diagram when necessary and try to be consistent in set-ups. (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 to help individuals with larger or more complex set-ups. Maintain detailed lists of all needed equipment and mallets for each work to be performed. Do not find yourself in performance with instruments or mallets missing.	20%
Concert Performance and Equipment Moving	Arrive at set times to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Move/Load Equipment2. Set-Up Carefully3. Help Others4. Then Warm-Up a Little (after everyone is set) Active and full participation returning and putting equipment away is required .	20%

Additional Policies:

- Attendance and Participation: **Attendance is MANDATORY**. Any unexcused absences will lower your final letter grade by one letter.
If an absence is necessary, make sure that:
 1. You call AND email Mr. Baldauff at least 24 hours in advance.
 2. The folder with your music arrives at the rehearsal.
 3. A competent substitute replaces the absent player, if possible, and this player has the appropriate mallets, instruments, and knowledge of the necessary set-up.
- Concert Dates: The date for the fall concert is **Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 PM**. It is your responsibility to keep this date open and not accept conflicting commitments. If additional performances are scheduled throughout the semester, they will be discussed and posted. Every attempt will be made to accommodate the schedules of the members. It is the performer's responsibility to make every effort to attend all additional rehearsals and performances.
- Procedures: Attend all rehearsals and concerts. Do not accept commitments that conflict with scheduled rehearsals and concerts. Percussion ensemble is chamber music that requires careful balance of 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:

Your West Liberty email will be the primary source of communication regarding pertinent details and information for this course. The schedule for rehearsals will be posted weekly on the percussion studio bulletin board.

Student Learning Outcomes

- #1 - Perform music with expressiveness and technical accuracy.
- #2 - Recognize the historical context, genre, and/or style of music either written or heard.
- #3 - Analyze and/or conceptualize music both written and heard using established theoretical techniques.
- #4 - Effectively use current musical technologies.
- #5 - Demonstrate appropriate conducting techniques for rehearsing and leading a performance of a musical ensemble.
- #6 - Sight read music at the piano, with the voice, and/or with the major instrument.

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

Percussion Studio Website:
westliberty.edu/percussion