

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Percussion Syllabus**  
**Prof. Andy Smith, DM**  
**M122 FFA**  
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**MUSA 1195**

## **Course Information:**

### **Individual Instruction-Percussion MUSA 1195**

**Class Time:** weekly lesson time arranged with instructor,  
Area Recital, Fridays 1:30-2:50pm.

Studio Class, Fridays 3:00–4:30pm. A schedule will be posted with topics covered.

**Office Hours:** As posted, or by appointment. Send an email to schedule a meeting via Zoom, phone, or face to face.

**Prerequisite:** *Music education, music performance, or commercial music major; consent of instructor and Chair of Music, approved lower-level admission form*

## **Instructor Information and Introduction**

### **Dr. Andy Smith**

For a more complete biography, please go to [andypsmith.squarespace.com](http://andypsmith.squarespace.com)

Dr. Smith earned his Doctor of Music degree in Percussion Performance and Pedagogy from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2014 with additional degrees and studies at Berklee College of Music, the University of Massachusetts Amherst (BME), and Middle Tennessee State University (MA). He was appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Percussion Studies at UTEP in 2016. Smith's most recent activities include clinic presentations (PASIC, JEN), commissioned compositions, and CD recordings (*Mambo Blue*, *Deanna Little*).

## **Course Description**

Students will study the interpretation of percussion literature and develop the skills necessary to ensure accurate and expressive performance. Students receive one 60-minute lesson per week. A minimum of twelve lessons are required for the fifteen week semester. Faculty reserve the right to schedule students in a group-lesson format as deemed necessary. Students are also required to attend studio, area, and departmental recitals, peer degree recitals, and guest artist clinics. The UTEP Percussion Faculty provides a standardized curriculum for percussion studies within a 4-year degree program, found in the Percussion Studio Google Drive. The UTEP Percussion Curriculum is broken down into UNITS of study for snare drum, keyboards, timpani, drum-set, and Afro-Cuban Percussion. At a minimum, every Percussion Major must complete UNIT 1 on each instrument and UNIT 2 on one instrument before progressing to upper division study. This curriculum outlines jury barriers and provides a guide for study. Solo repertoire will vary according to the level and ability of each student. See the UTEP Percussion Studio handbook for required and suggested materials per UNIT and level of study. Students will study at least two major areas of percussion during the course of one semester (see sample instrument rotation below). None of the credits can be repeated for credit toward graduation. An

individual instruction music fee is charged each semester (see fees and financial information).

## **Goals**

The percussion student in lower division individual instruction will develop technical proficiency and musicianship on the core instruments suitable to prepare and pass a “double jury,” and pass into upper division. The core instrument study will begin with snare drum and mallet keyboards (2–mallets and 4-mallets), expand to include timpani, vibraphone, multi-percussion, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian percussion, and drum-set. These skills shall be developed in combination with pedagogical and practical knowledge, and augmented by a comprehensive degree program with the end goal of graduating a versatile, adaptive percussionist and complete musician prepared for a career in music as well as graduate study.

## **Objectives**

- Complete methods, “Miner Method” supplements, and solo repertoire consistent with the established curriculum and “selected repertoire” listed in the UTEP Percussion Studio Handbook.
- Pass a “double jury” after four semesters and progress into upper level individual instruction (MUSA 3295).
- Complete at least UNIT 1 for snare drum, keyboards, timpani, drum-set, and Afro-Cuban Percussion before performing a double jury.
- Complete UNIT 2 in at least one area before performing a double jury.
- Complete UNIT 2 in all areas, and UNIT 3 in at least one area before performing a degree recital and graduating.

## **Policies**

1. Recommended practice time - minimum 12 hours per week Music Education and Commercial Music Major; 21 hours Music Performance Major
2. All students are encouraged to keep a practice journal and to bring the practice journal to each lesson. Periodically, any student may be required to produce this journal as determined by the instructor.
3. You must show up to lessons to get a grade. Being professional is the key. If you need to reschedule, please contact me as soon as possible in advance of the lesson. Alternate lesson times will be arranged when the instructor has a conflict. Unexcused absences will not be made-up and will be treated as a failing grade for that week of study.
4. Excessive absence before the course drop deadline may result in the student being dropped; after the deadline may result in failing the course.
5. Students are required to perform a minimum of one studio and/or area recital per semester.
6. Additionally, one off-campus performance is required each Spring semester. This performance must include repertory studied, and ideally, also includes a pedagogical component presented in an area school.
7. Any student who fulfills all requirements and performs on a *departmental* or degree recital may be excused from end of semester juries at the discretion of the instructor.
8. Perform an end of semester jury during finals week.

## **Required Materials**

Students will be responsible for supplying their own mallets, music, and other lesson materials. Students are expected to purchase assigned methods and repertoire in a timely manner. See suggested materials list in google drive. Students are expected to acquire and build a personal library of implements, instruments, and pedagogical materials over time, as required of a musician/ musician/educator.

Membership in the Percussive Arts Society is recommended for all students taking applied lessons in percussion. Backstage Pass recommended; VIP Pass preferred. <http://www.pas.org/membership/member-services/individualmembership.aspx>

See UTEP Percussion Studio Handbook (Google Folder) for a list of suggested repertoire specific to each instrument.

Smart Music Subscription (\$40) if assigned by instructor.

Membership, dues paid (\$25 per semester), in the RSO, West Texas Percussion Group (WTPG), is expected. Any percussion student who is not current with dues will be charged a fee to any guest artist clinics and performances supported by the WTPG.

## **Communication**

Check your UTEP email account daily. Use this account for UTEP business. ALWAYS include a greeting and salutation in emails.

Check the UTEP Percussion Studio facebook group daily.

Check the physical UTEP Percussion Board outside M122 whenever on campus.

## **Netiquette**

UTEP Percussion's google drive folders, and facebook groups are not public internet venues; all postings should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for current members of UTEP Percussion (classmates and professor only). Please do not copy documents or any media and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

## **Outcomes**

Students will become proficient in sight reading, and performing on the core percussion instruments, sufficient to pass into upper division study. These instruments include snare drum (symphonic and rudimental), mallet keyboards (2–mallets and 4–mallets), timpani, vibraphone, multi-percussion, Afro-Cuban percussion, and drum-set. Students will meet expectations for scale proficiencies including all major scales, minor modes, and all modes based on the major scale. Specifics for each instrument can be found in the curriculum in the UTEP Percussion Google Drive.

## **Grading**

The grade for applied lessons will be determined by

- 80% based upon weekly lesson to include
  - Weekly lesson preparation (see grading rubric below)
  - Completion of assigned materials
  - Attendance
- 20% based upon Jury and recital performances and attendance
  - Studio event attendance
  - Area and departmental attendance (see below)
  - Completion of required performances
  - Semester Jury

- The 12 lesson minimum will allow for two absences (requiring appropriate communication). Each additional absence will result in lowering by one full letter grade.

### **Area and Departmental Recitals Attendance Policy**

1. All students enrolled in Applied Lessons must attend a minimum of twelve (12) Area and Departmental which take place every Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the Department of Music or online. **Failing to attend twelve (12) required recitals will result in lowering Applied Lessons' final grade by one letter.**
2. Make up absences are accomplished by attending UTEP Music Department concerts and recitals. Non-University recitals such as El Paso Music Forum, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Wind Symphony, and Pro-Musica as well as any other performances given by our faculty and guests will be accepted.
3. To receive credit for the make-up, a student must attend a music event. The program must be signed by a music faculty member who attended the same event. The program must be brought to the Music Office to record the attendance. Student name and ID# must be on the program. Without this information students will not receive credit.
4. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the signed programs to the main office by 5 p.m. on Friday's Finals week . There will be no exceptions.
5. Students must sign the makeup sheet every time they turn in a program. At the end, the office must have both, the program with the student's information and their signature matching the date. There will be no exceptions.
6. Please notice: When a single area recital is cancelled, students will need to replace the cancelled recital by either going to a different area recital held at the same time or turning in a makeup recital.
7. At the end of the semester, all students will have the same number of expected recitals.

### **Attendance at Percussion Events**

Applied students are required to attend all formal percussion recitals and percussion ensemble concerts. Unexcused absences will result in lowering the applied lesson grade. It is also a common courtesy to help tear down and assist in moving equipment after performances.

### **Applied Music Juries**

Students are required to perform a jury each semester. Students are exempt from performing a jury following the successful performance of a departmental or senior recital in the same semester (at the discretion of the instructor). They serve as the semester examination and give students an opportunity to demonstrate their progress in performance skills to the applied music faculty. The applied music jury consists of the applied music faculty who teach in the area of the student's concentration. Juries typically last 15 minutes including scales and technical skills, excerpts from assigned methods and performance repertory studied. See the Percussion Studio Handbook for standardized Jury Barriers by semester.

## **Instrument Rotation for Undergraduate Applied Percussion Lessons:**

*Semester 1:* Mallet keyboard (marimba) and snare drum; fundamental orchestral excerpts and accessory instruments

*Semester 2:* Mallet keyboard (marimba and/or vibraphone), timpani, Afro-Cuban percussion

*Semester 3:* Mallet keyboard (marimba and vibraphone) and drum set

*Semester 4:* Prepare Double Jury, Complete UNIT 1 for all major instruments.

*Semesters 5-8 –* Personalized rotation of instruments based on student needs and future goals

Example Rotation:

*Semester 5:* Advanced 4-mallet marimba rep., multi-percussion

*Semester 6:* Drum-set, jazz vibraphone.

*Semester 7:* Recital prep, orchestral excerpts

*Semester 8:* Recital

\*Additional specialized topics such as orchestral excerpts, and Latin-percussion fundamentals will be interspersed throughout the curriculum both in individual instruction and studio class and ensemble settings.

\*Students performing drum-set in an ensemble will receive integrated drum-set instruction in addition to the rotation above.

## **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org)

## **Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

#### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

## **Applied Lesson Grading Rubric**

*The criteria for grading lessons will be as follows:*

**A** – The student has fulfilled all requirements as specified by the syllabus. This includes any supplemental material assigned by the instructor. The student has performed the required material consistently without flaws in accuracy, pulse control, form, or other elements inherent to the music. Performer has done this with exceptional quality and musicianship. The student has demonstrated significant improvement in technique and understanding of the material relative to the student's abilities at the beginning of the semester. The student has gone above and beyond the call of duty by studying additional material, and coming to each lesson with new material. This means doing more work than what is required and demonstrating creative application of the materials presented. The student has perfect attendance.

**B** – The student has fulfilled all requirements as specified by the syllabus. This includes any supplemental material assigned by the instructor. The student has performed the required material consistently with two to three mistakes or breaks. The student has done this with acceptable quality and musicianship. The student has demonstrated noticeable improvement in technique and understanding of the material relative to the performer's abilities at the beginning of the semester.

**C** – The student has fulfilled all requirements as specified by the syllabus. This includes any supplemental material assigned by the instructor.

**D** – The student has failed to fulfill the requirements as specified by the syllabus. This includes any supplemental material assigned by the instructor. Performer has shown some acceptable degree of improvement in technique and understanding of the material relative to the performer's abilities at the beginning of the semester as determined by the instructor.

**F** – The student has failed to fulfill the requirements as specified by the syllabus. This includes any supplemental material assigned by the instructor. Performer has not demonstrated some acceptable degree of improvement in technique and understanding of the material relative to the performer's abilities at the beginning of the semester as determined by the instructor.

**Attendance:** One days notice is expected for any absence. It is at the discretion of the instructor to excuse an absence with exception to university policy. Any unexcused absences will result in the semester grade being lowered by one half-letter grade.

## **PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT**

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity> for further information.

## **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

**Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Center for Accommodations and Support Services can also be reached : <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>