

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Percussion Syllabus**  
**Prof. Andy Smith, DM**  
**M122 FFA**  
**office ph: 915-747-7802**  
**[apsmith@utep.edu](mailto:apsmith@utep.edu)**  
**MUSA 1290**

## **Course Information:**

### **Individual Instruction-Percussion MUSA 1290**

**Class Time:** weekly lesson time arranged with instructor,  
Studio Class, TBD

**Prerequisite:** *consent of instructor and Chair of Music*

## **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 University of Indiana 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 (MM). 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, commissioned compositions, and CD recordings. In January 2016, he presented at the Jazz Education Network International Convention and will present a clinic—*21st Century Samba-jazz Drumset*—at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in November. His recent compositions include: *Vento no Ritmo* (Wind in Rhythm) for flute trio with leg rattles and *Tendencies*, a multi-percussion trio commissioned by 10-Can Percussion.

Dr. Smith previously taught at Middle Tennessee State University and Indiana University and serves as the Percussion Instructor for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, a state sponsored program for elite college-bound musicians. His career has taken him from the recording studios of Nashville, TN to Tanglewood, Ravinia and the Hollywood Bowl. He has traveled to Ghana West Africa and the Caribbean to be immersed in African diasporic rhythm. In 2012, Smith was awarded a Tinker Foundation grant to study contemporary Brazilian Jazz drumming in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Smith publishes with Row-Loff Publications and self-publishes at [andypsmith.squarespace.com](http://andypsmith.squarespace.com).

Recent recordings include *Finally Here* with Angel Roman and Mambo Blue, and *Transparency* featuring Latin Jazz group Batuquê Trio ([batuquetrio.com](http://batuquetrio.com)).

## **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 area and departmental recitals, announced studio classes, and guest artist clinics. Repertoire will vary according to the level and ability of each student. See the UTEP Percussion Studio handbook for required and suggested materials by level of study. Students will typically study two to three major areas of percussion during the course of one semester with an emphasis on mallet keyboards and snare drum. 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 will develop technical proficiency and musicianship on mallet keyboards, snare drum, and a third area (i.e. drum-set, timpani, vibraphone) sufficient to perform a music major entrance audition. Upon successful acceptance as a music major in percussion, 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 and solo repertoire consistent with the “selected repertoire” listed in the UTEP Percussion Studio Handbook.
- Perform and pass a music major entrance audition meeting UTEP Percussion Studio entrance requirements and progress into lower-level individual instruction (MUSA 1195).
- Students in pre-major lessons have two semesters to successfully advance into MUSA 1195. Students failing to meet this requirement will be required to pursue an alternate major field of study.

## **Policies**

1. Recommended practice time - minimum 12 hours per week.
2. All students must keep a practice log for the first two semesters of study. Failure to complete, total and bring the practice log to each lesson will result in the lowering of one letter grade for that lesson.
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. Students are required to perform a minimum of one area recitals or departmental recital per semester.

## **Required Materials**

Students will be responsible for supplying their own mallets, music, and other lesson materials. Students are expected to purchase assigned methods and repertory in a timely manner. Membership in the Percussive Arts Society is required for all students taking applied lessons in percussion. Backstage Pass required. VIP Pass recommended. <http://www.pas.org/membership/member-services/individualmembership.aspx>

See UTEP Percussion Studio Handbook for a list of required materials specific to each area of study (mallet keyboards, timpani, snare drum, drum-set, etc.)

## Required Methods (May be substituted with equivalents as assigned)

Peters, Mitchell, Fundamental Method for Mallets

Davila, Julie, Impressions on Wood

Freytag, Edward, Rudimental Cookbook

Cirone, Anthony, Portraits in Rhythm

Carrol, Raynor, Exercises, Etudes and Solos for Timpani

## **Outcomes**

Students will become proficient in sight reading, and performing the core percussion instruments, sufficient to pass a music major entrance audition. These instruments include snare drum (symphonic and rudimental), mallet keyboards (2–mallets), and an additional area (timpani, classical vibraphone, basic multi-percussion, or drum-set.) Students will meet expectations for scale proficiencies including all major scales, and the rudiment ritual.

## **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
  - 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.

## **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. 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.

## **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/>