

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Percussion Syllabus**  
**Prof. Andy Smith, DM**  
**M122 FFA**  
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**MUSA 5391**

## **Course Information:**

### **Individual Instruction-Percussion MUSA 5391**

**Class Time:** weekly lesson time arranged with instructor,  
Studio Class/Area Recital, Fridays 1:30-2:15pm.

**Prerequisite:** *Graduate Music Major, successful performance of an entrance audition*

## **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, announced studio classes, peer recitals, and guest artist clinics. The UTEP Percussion Faculty provides a standardized curriculum for percussion studies within a 2-year degree program found in the Percussion Studio Handbook. This curriculum outlines jury barriers and provides a guide for study. However, 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 study at least two major areas of percussion during the course of one semester (see 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). The curriculum at the graduate level will be customized to bolster any determined weaknesses and to highlight the musician's chosen area(s) of specialization.

## **Goals**

The graduate percussion student will develop technical proficiency and musicianship on the core instruments suitable to prepare and perform a successful senior recital. The core instrument study will include snare drum (symphonic, solo, and rudimental), mallet keyboards, timpani, drum-set, and multi-percussion. It may also include jazz vibraphone, Latin-percussion, Brazilian percussion,

and electronics. 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 continued graduate study (DM/DMA/PhD).

### **Objectives**

- Complete methods and solo repertoire consistent with the “selected repertoire” listed in the UTEP Percussion Studio Handbook.
- Perform a graduate recital (2nd and 4th semester) meeting standards and specifications outlined in the UTEP Percussion Studio Handbook, or 1 recital and one research project (see dept. graduate requirements.)

### **Policies**

1. Recommended practice time - minimum 21 hours per week.
2. All students are encouraged to keep a practice log and to bring the practice log to each lesson. Periodically, any student may be required to produce this log 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 may be a performance of repertory studied or may involve a pedagogical aspect 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. For Fall 2020, Juries will be in the form of a YouTube Channel Playlist featuring public and/or unlisted recordings of solo repertory. See appropriate one-page and/or facebook group for instructions on submitting links via google form.
9. Exchanging of recordings may be used to supplement instruction or as “asynchronous” learning in place of a scheduled real-time lesson as needed with instructor approval.

### **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 (Google Folder) for a list of suggested repertoire specific to each instrument.

Membership, dues paid (\$30 annual), 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.

## Technology Requirements

Course is delivered in a hybrid format: either alternating weeks in person and online, or fully on-line for some.

A laptop or desktop computer is preferred over a hand-help device.

A Zoom account is required.

A USB mic is not required, but recommended.

## 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

- Successful performance of semester juries and area recitals
- Graduate a versatile, adaptive percussionist and complete musician prepared for a career in music as well as continued graduate study (DM/DMA/PhD).
- Successful performance of Senior Recital (and Junior recital for Performance Majors).

## 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.

## Area and Departmental Recital Attendance Policy

1. All students enrolled in Applied Lessons must attend a minimum of twelve (12) Area and Departmental recitals scheduled every Friday at 1:30 p.m., in the Department of Music. **Failing to attend twelve (12) required recitals will lower the student's final Applied Lesson grade by one letter.** Students are responsible for signing in at each recital electronically. Students arriving late, or leaving early may have their attendance voided.
2. When a single area recital is canceled, students must either attend a different area recital held at the same time or attend a makeup event (see makeup procedures, below).

## Recital Makeup Procedures

1. Students may make up Area and Departmental recital absences by attending UTEP Music Department concerts and recitals. Non-university concerts such as El Paso Opera, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Wind Symphony, and El Paso Pro-Musica, as well as any other performances given by our faculty and guests, will be accepted.
2. To receive credit for UTEP Music events with *electronic programs*, the student must complete the online **recital makeup form**, available by hyperlink within the electronic program.
  - o To receive credit for events with physical *paper programs*, the student's program must be **signed at the conclusion of the event by a music faculty member in attendance**.
  - o The student must submit the signed program with their name and ID number clearly written on the front page to the Music Office (M301). The student must also **sign the makeup log**. Without this information, the student will not receive credit. There will be no exceptions.
  - o The deadline to turn in signed programs **to the Music Office is Friday of finals week at 5:00 p.m.** There will be no exceptions.
3. Students are responsible for knowing how many recitals they have or have not received credit for attending. Students may check their recital attendance by visiting the Music Office.

### **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 recital in the same 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 10–15 minutes including performance repertory studied.

### **COVID-19 Accommodations**

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

(classes with on-campus meetings) Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu). If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as

soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

*(classes with on-campus meetings)* Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

## **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/>