

Percussion Ensemble Syllabus - MUSA 1150

University of Texas at El Paso
Percussion Syllabus
Prof. Andy Smith, DM
M122 FFA
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MUSA 1150

Course Information:

Individual Instruction-Percussion MUSA 1150

Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm, FFA M140 Band Room

Studio Class/Additional Lab TBD, Tuesday or Thursday 9:30 am - 10:50 am or 4:30 pm - 5:50 pm.

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

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.

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

Course Description

Percussion ensemble provides the percussion student with the opportunity to rehearse and perform a wide variety of percussion chamber ensemble literature. Repertory will be drawn from classic Percussion Ensemble literature, contemporary works, ethnic and popular music styles and original compositions and commissions. The Percussion Ensemble or "UTEP Percussion Group" will be further divided into distinct ensembles:

UTEP Percussion 1

UTEP Percussion 2

Pandemonium Steel Band

Afro-Cuban and Brazilian Percussion Ensemble

The ensembles will perform both on and off campus and represent the school of music with UTEP Percussion 1 serving as the premier ensemble of the percussion studio. Pandemonium and the Afro-

Cuban and Brazilian Percussion Ensemble (Los Mineros/Os Mineiros) will augment the conventional percussion ensemble program enhancing the identity and exposure of UTEP Percussion.

Goals

Students will prepare for performance, selected percussion ensemble literature with musical understanding and control. Students will also develop techniques specific to the percussionist's art that will facilitate the achievement of artistic excellence while developing as a mature musician in an ensemble setting.

Objectives

- Students will experience the rehearsal and performance of major periods and styles of percussion literature.
- Rehearsal will focus on individual preparation of assigned repertory, ensemble cohesion and stylistic interpretation.

Policies

- A rehearsal schedule for current repertory will be posted weekly.
- Students are responsible for individual retention and preparation of assigned parts meeting posted expectations for rehearsal marks etc.
- Students are responsible for locating assigned instruments and being set-up on time.
- All participants are responsible for daily maintenance of instruments.
 - Stow instruments properly as labeled
 - Tune - daily fine tuning membranes will prolong drumhead life and prevent instrument wear and tear.
- Performances will be scheduled in advance and should be duly noted in students' individual calendars.

Required Materials

Students will be responsible for supplying their own mallets sticks and mallets. Students are also responsible to maintain sheet music. Failure to bring assigned parts/sheet music to rehearsal will result in a failed grade for that class meeting.

Outcomes

Students will gain experience in performing classic and contemporary percussion ensemble literature, building confidence and finesse as stage performers.

Students will learn a variety of percussion specific techniques and learn to play myriad styles of music in-depth.

Students will learn pedagogical techniques in varied modes by observation (music reading, rote learning, transcribing, etc.)

Through working as a team on logistical issues and music rehearsal, solving problems with multiple percussion set-ups and specialized sounds, and seeing all music selections through in development, students will gain valuable experience unique to the art of percussion.

The best prepared and executed performance selections will be audio/video recorded and presented and distributed on the web.

Grading

Attendance is critically important since students are assigned to individual parts. Grades will be lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence. Additionally, students are responsible for advance preparation of assigned repertory.

Set-up and tear-down/strike: Students are expected to show up early enough to set up their instruments before rehearsal starts. Students are expected to help with all transport and set up of instruments for percussion ensemble concerts. All students are required to set-up and strike after each performance. Everyone will remain present after performances until all equipment is returned to its proper storage area. Failure to fulfill this responsibility will result in the lowering of one letter grade. Grades will be based on student performance, preparation, and attitude during rehearsals. Performances are mandatory. Unexcused absences from a percussion ensemble performance will result in failure of the course.

Scheduled Performances Fall 2016

November 27 Dress Rehearsal 4:00 - 7:00 pm

November 28 Percussion Ensemble Concert 7:30 PM, 6:00 PM Call-Time/Sound Check

Concert Dress:

Unless otherwise notified, attire for Percussion Ensemble performance is all black: long sleeve black shirt/blouse and black pants/long skirt, black socks and black dress shoes. No athletic shoes. Integration of gray pieces is encouraged, e.g. shirt, blazer, etc. Any selections must qualify as professional performance attire.

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/>