

# Percussion Ensemble Syllabus - MUSA 1150

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Percussion Syllabus**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Prof. Andy Smith, DM**  
**M122 FFA**  
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**MUSA 1150 - Fall 2018**

## **Course Information:**

### **Percussion Ensemble MUSA 1150**

**Class Time:** Tuesday, Thursday 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm

FFA M140 Band Room, Magoffin Pan Room, M101, M102

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

## **Instructor Information and Introduction**

### **Dr. Andy Smith**

For a more complete biography, please go to [andydsmith.squarespace.com](http://andydsmith.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, commissioned compositions, and CD recordings. In 2016, he presented at the Jazz Education Network International Convention and at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention—*21st Century Samba-jazz Drumset*. His recent compositions include: *Vento no Ritmo* (Wind in Rhythm) for flute trio with leg rattles, and *Tendencias*, 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 [andydsmith.squarespace.com](http://andydsmith.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**

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 UTEP Percussion Ensemble also includes specialized ensembles, Pandemonium Steel Band, and the Afro-Cuban and Brazilian Percussion Ensembles.

The ensembles will perform both on and off campus and represent the school of music serving as the premier ensemble of the percussion studio. Pandemonium and other specialized ensembles augment the conventional percussion ensemble program enhancing the identity and exposure of UTEP Percussion. In addition, a Reserve Percussion Ensemble, including graduate students and select upper division students will rehearse and perform exclusive works.

## **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. Multiple selections will frequently be rehearsed within the same class meeting - all pieces should be set up before the start of class.
- All participants are responsible for daily maintenance of instruments.
  - Stow instruments properly as labeled
  - Lift mallet keyboard instruments gently over thresholds and two people are required at all times to move marimbas.
  - 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 sticks and mallets appropriate to each music selection. 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 as students are assigned to individual parts. Grades will be lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence after 2. 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. 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 2018**

1) Sunday, November 11, 5:00 pm “Journey into the Mind”

Dress Rehearsal November 11, 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

Sound Check 4:00 pm.

2) November 3, Time TBD “Sun City Throwdown”

Eastwood Middle School, 2612 Chaswood St, El Paso, TX 79935

3) Select chamber ensembles will perform on Friday “area” recitals.

100 % attendance is required for all performances and dress rehearsals. The same is expected if adjustments are made to the above schedule with reasonable notice.

## **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.

\*All participants are required to purchase a “UTEP Percussion” T-shirt (estimated cost is \$16–\$20) to be worn at select events such as Brazilian *bateria* and Pandemonium performances. This top is custom-ordered as a group with cash turned in to the West Texas Percussion Club Treasurer no later than the third week of classes.

## **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/>