

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Pedagogy of Instrumental Music - Percussion Syllabus**  
**Prof. Andy Smith, DM**  
**M122 FFA**  
**office ph: 915-747-7802**  
**[apsmith@utep.edu](mailto:apsmith@utep.edu)**  
**MUSA 5397**

## **Course Information:**

### **Pedagogy of Instrumental Music - Percussion MUSA 5397**

**Class Meeting:** TBD One to two hours per week

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

**Prerequisite:** *Graduate Music Performance Major, Percussion*

## **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**

Part one of the Percussion Literature sequence will be a historical survey of the Percussion Ensemble including its development and literature. This also includes the advent of "multi-percussion" set-ups in symphonic, chamber, and solo music. Part 2 is a survey of percussion methods and resources for all major areas of percussion.

## **Goals**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to Percussion Ensemble literature written during the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The student will research and present historical significances for specified Percussion Ensemble literature. The student will participate in the development of databases which show the chronology of Percussion Ensemble literature. The student will compile an annotated list of percussion methods.

## **Objectives**

- Compile a database of select percussion ensemble literature
- Compile an annotated list of methods of pedagogy for major areas of percussion
- Develop philosophies on percussion pedagogical approaches and specific methods and be able to articulate those philosophies and justify selected methods.
- Select an instrument-specific topic for developing pedagogy and materials, with a research component, and tangible project.

## **Policies**

1. You must show up to classes 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.
2. Excessive absence before the course drop deadline may result in the student being dropped; after the deadline may result in failing the course.
3. Students will be expected to prepare assigned material to facilitate engaging discussion in class meetings.

## **Required Materials**

Instrumental scores, and methods for review will be provided.

History of Percussion Ensemble Spreadsheet and example annotations provided.

The student will supply basic materials, e.g. notebook and laptop computer to take notes and build databases and annotations.

## **Technology Requirements**

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

A laptop or desktop computer is preferred over a hand-held 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 graduate study.
- Successful performance of Senior Recital (and Junior recital for Performance Majors).

## **Grading**

- 50% based upon weekly lesson to include
  - Weekly preparation
  - Completion of assigned materials
  - Attendance

- 25% Select Percussion Ensemble Database
- 25% Select Percussion Methods Annotations

## **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/>

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