

Percussion Techniques Syllabus - MUSA 2279

**University of Texas at El Paso
Percussion Techniques Syllabus
Prof. Andy P. Smith, DM
Office: M122 FFA
office ph: 915-747-7802
apsmith@utep.edu
MUSA 2279**

Course Information:

Percussion Techniques-MUSA 2279-001

Lecture 2.0 credits

Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday 10:30 - 11:20 am, M140 (Band Room)

Prerequisite: Music Education Major

Office Hours: as posted or by appointment

Instructor Information and Introduction

Dr. Andy P. 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 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, and Assistant Professor in 2020. Smith's most recent activities include clinic presentations (PASIC, JEN), commissioned compositions, and CD recordings (Mambo Blue, Jim Shearer, Batuque Trio, Deanna Little).

Course Description

A study of major areas of percussion performance and pedagogy in preparation for music education certification and teaching scholastic instrumental music. This includes conventional concert percussion, snare drum, mallet keyboards, timpani, drum-set, world percussion, and marching percussion. An emphasis will be placed on fundamental stick control and on sound pedagogical processes. This includes field-specific terminology.

Goals

- Develop fundamental proficiency on the core percussion instruments.
- Acquire pedagogical and practical knowledge for the purpose of fundamental percussion teaching, and responsible ensemble conducting.
- Compile a "Percussion Techniques Binder" consisting of ALL class materials, including completed homework, class notes, and supplemental materials provided via blackboard (or in class).
- Develop working vocabulary of terminology for percussion teaching.
- Advance teaching "chops" through practicum exercises (primarily video assignments).

Objectives

Develop mastery of fundamental techniques of percussion performance. The student should acquire an understanding of organizational and logistical issues specific to percussion study in public school. Acquire teaching methods for percussion.

Policies

1. Recommended practice time - 20 minutes per day, 6 days per week.
2. Attendance - Final grade lowered one half letter grade for each absence after 2 absences for any reason. Communicate anticipated absences as a courtesy.
3. Participation/Set-up/Tear-down; Demonstrated in-class-effort toward understanding and execution of performance technique and execution of any practicum/pedagogical exercises; Set-up and tear-down is a fundamental part of participation in a percussion section or ensemble. Therefore, you will all be responsible for this aspect of the class.
4. Assignments are due as assigned in semester outline. Each student is granted one “Extension Pass” to be used one time at any point in the semester (that week’s assignment will be due on Friday of the same week.)
5. Detailed descriptions of Written and Video assignments can be found in the Percussion Techniques Blackboard Shell in the **Assignments** folder. Video Links are found in the **UNITS** folders.
6. Written Homework: uploaded to the appropriate assignment prompt in **Blackboard IN PDF FORMAT, proofed before submission**. Anything that reads like it was written in one draft without proofing, I will return to you with a grade of zero. Please utilize the UTEP writing center.
7. Video Homework: Video Teaching Assignments and Video Playing Tests Videos will be submitted online via flip grid. The top level <https://flip.com/1c9dc527>
8. Each assignment presents as a “**topic**” in flip grid. Click on the “**topic**” and record.
9. Late homework submissions accepted with penalty at discretion of Professor.

Requirements

Students will be required to view all assigned tutorial videos consistently due to the experiential nature of the course. Reading, research, practice, recorded practicum, and thoughtful reflective writing will be required outside class. Consistent practice required for mastery of performance skills taught and evaluated throughout the semester. Plan your consistent practice time, and store and travel with your pad and sticks as needed. Students will assume responsibility for any loss or damage to university equipment. Students will be responsible for supplying their own sticks, mallets, organizational materials, video recording device, and two required texts. Students are expected to purchase required materials in advance and to have in hand no later than Monday, the second week of class.

Required Materials

- *The Snare Drummer’s Toolbox from Row-Loff* <http://www.snaredrummerstoolbox.com>
- Snare Drum Sticks: Innovative Percussion IP-LD Lalo Davila Model (or equivalent)
- Keyboard Mallets: Innovative Percussion IP-F2 Hard Marimba Model (or equivalent)
- A smart phone or other video recording device will be needed to record video assignments.

*The method books, sticks, and mallets can all be easily ordered online from a single source such as Lonestar Percussion or Steve Weiss Music.

Recommended

- Not required, but if you'd like a more complete set of fundamental percussion implements of your own to take with you to your future teaching gig, consider a pre-packaged set such as the Innovative Percussion FP-2 <http://www.lonestarpercussion.com/Innovative-Percussion-FP2.html>

Provided

- Drum Pad (to be signed out). See the Graduate Teaching Assistant in the instrument storage room to sign-out a Remo or Real Feel drum pad for the semester. A replacement fee of \$40 will be imposed for any lost drum pad.
- Supplemental materials to be posted on Blackboard. Print them ALL and compile a reference binder for a grade, for use with the final exam, and for your reference shelf.

Online Resources

<http://pas.org>

<http://vicfirth.com/education-resource-library/>

Outcomes

Achieve mastery of fundamental performance and pedagogical techniques for percussion teaching. A foundation to include the above goals and objectives should be constructed, to be further developed through future practical and professional experience. A comprehensive "Percussion Performance and Pedagogy Binder" compiled throughout the course to take with you as a "go-to" reference resource. Concise, field-specific terminology for percussion teaching acquired.

Grading

- Attendance - **Strictly Enforced** - Attendance taken promptly at the beginning of each class. Final grade lowered one half letter grade for each absence after 2 absences for any reason. Communicate anticipated absences as a courtesy. A single absence can be made-up by attending an approved percussion event, such as a UTEP Percussion Ensemble Concert or guest artist clinic, and writing a thoughtful and cohesive reflection - the required document parameters are the same as for a video reflection assignment (see blackboard>assignments).
- Quizzes 10% Periodic quizzes (announced or un-announced) will be given within the first five minutes of class. These will test your organizational skills and retention and will constitute a percentage of your semester grade. *Peer-graded in-class.*
- Video Playing Tests 20%
- Video Teaching Assignments 20%
- Written Assignments (Readings, Reflective Writing, Mallet Keyboard Ensemble Composition/Arrangement) 20%
- Exam 20% YES Open binder; NOT open text book.
- "Percussion Techniques Binder" 10% Students will compile this binder to include typed lecture notes, any supplemental materials posted or distributed in class, articles and resources compiled, quizzes, reflective writing, any assignments, and any additional relevant materials. The binder will be reviewed by Dr. Smith week 13 for 10% of the final grade and returned to you for completion with a final check at the final exam. **All class notes and other text documents included in the Percussion Techniques Binder are required to be typed and printed from a word processor.**
- NO EXTRA CREDIT.

Percussion Events

- UTEP Percussion Ensemble TMEA Preview Concert, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 5:30 PM, FFA Recital Hall.
- UTEP Percussion Ensemble “Afro-Brazilian, Cuban, and Caribbean Music” Concert, Thursday, March 9, 7:30 PM, FFA Recital Hall.
- April 12, UTEP Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 PM
- Degree Percussion Recitals

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/>

Semester Outline

Week	In Class Activity	Tool Box/Video Links	Assignment DUE (Wednesday)
1	Syllabi and Course Expectations; sign-out drum pads with GTA at M131	LESSON 1 pp. 1–10 Fundamentals and Set-Up	
2	Snare Drum (Playing and Teaching): Instrument Set-up; Fundamentals; Thom Hannum’s “Technique Guidelines”; Sticking Concepts	LESSONS 1, 2 and 3 pp. 11–24 Sticking	
3	Snare Drum (Playing and Teaching): Stroke-Types, Dynamics, Accents, Strong-Hand Lead Sticking in 16th-Note Rhythm, Rolls	LESSONS 4 and 5 pp. 25–37 Stroke-Types, Dynamics, Accents, Strong-Hand Lead Sticking in 16th-Note Rhythm	<u>Video Teaching Assignment No. 1</u> (S.D. Fundamentals)
4	Snare Drum (Playing and Teaching) Double-sticking, Rolls, Paradiddles, Rudiments	LESSONS 6 and 7 pp. 38–53 Rolls, Paradiddles, Rudiments *Rudiment Ritual Supplement	ASSIGNMENT DUE (Written Assignment Grade): Toolbox p. 46, scanned and uploaded to blackboard assignments
5	Snare Drum (Playing and Teaching)	LESSONS 8 and 9 pp. 54–69 Flams, Drags	<u>Video Playing Test No. 1</u> “Suite Sixteenths” Toolbox p.35, tempo as marked.
6	Section Percussion: S.D., Bass Drum, tam-tam, and Cymbals (Playing and Teaching)	See video links for “Section Percussion” Unit	
7	Tambourine and Triangle	See video links for triangle and tambourine	Video Summation No. 1 (See Video Summation Guidelines)
8	Percussion Accessories - Demonstration, Petting Zoo, Organizing Your Percussion Section		
9	Timpani: Instrument; Playing and Teaching	View tutorial videos in Blackboard Unit Folder	
10	Mallet Keyboards/Perc. Ens. Lab	View tutorial videos in Blackboard Unit Folder	
11	Perc. Ens. Lab		ASSIGNMENT DUE: Video Summation No. 2 (See Video Summation Guidelines). Triangle and tambourine
12	ABCs of “World Percussion” (Africa, Brazil, Cuba)	View tutorial videos in Blackboard Unit Folder	Playing Test No. 3
13	Drum-set: Instruments; Playing and Teaching; Music Styles	View tutorial videos in Blackboard Unit Folder	
14	Drum-set w/ Latin Percussion and Rhythm Section		Upload digital scan of binder
15	Marching Percussion	View tutorial videos in Blackboard Unit Folder	