

Special Focus Ensemble - Steel Band - Syllabus - MUSA 1137



University of Texas at El Paso
Percussion Syllabus
Prof. Andy P. Smith, DM
M122 FFA
office ph: 915-747-7802
apsmith@utep.edu
MUSA 1137-007

Course Information:

Special Focus Ensemble - Steel Band - MUSA 1137-007

Lab 4033-026 (0 credit option)

Class Time: TBD (Typically Wednesday 4:30-6:00, or 6:00 - 7:50 PM)

Additional rehearsals as scheduled, incl. Fridays 3:00 - 4:20

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 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 Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Percussion Studies at UTEP in 2021, having served as Visiting Assistant Professor since 2016. 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

Steel Band provides the student with the opportunity to prepare and perform a wide variety of music styles. The ensemble will perform both on and off campus and represent the school of music. Pantastics and other specialized ensembles augment the conventional percussion ensemble program enhancing the identity and exposure of UTEP Percussion.

Goals

Students will prepare for performance, selected steel band 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. Through this process, an understanding of professionalism, and what it means to be prepared is developed.

Objectives

- Learn cultural context of calypso and soca music (and others).
- Learn the essential history of the development of the steel band, and an awareness of UTEP's historic research collaboration with metallurgy.
- Prepare and perform public concerts of selected repertory.

Policies

- Performances will be scheduled in advance and should be duly noted in students' individual calendars.

Outcomes

- Perform as stated above
- Be able to articulate essentials of cultural context and history pertaining to the steel pan and Trinidad music styles.
- Basic understanding of the ensemble functions of all the parts in the band.

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. Evidence of rote tradition/world music transcriptions, as well as quiz responses will impact 10% of the course grade.

Scheduled Performances Spring 2023

1. Thursday, March 9, 7:30 PM, Pantastics and Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music with Michael Spiro
2. Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 PM, UTEP Percussion Ensemble
3. 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:

- 1) 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. Individual expression by way of accessories encouraged - blazer, scarf, tie, vest, shirt/garment style. No athletic shoes.
- 2) UTEP Percussion T-shirt (silver and orange or blue and orange as specified) and White pants and shoes. *All participants are required to purchase a "UTEP Percussion" T-shirt (\$15) to be worn at select events such as Brazilian *bateria* and Pantastics performances. Pants and shoes must be ALL WHITE.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

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.

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/>