NEW SYLLABUS

Percussion Skills
MUSI 3080, 1 credit hour

Instructor:

Class time:
2 hours per week

Course Description:
Class instruction and practice in the rudiments of music as applied to various percussion instruments.

Prerequisites:
MUAP 1210
Music Education major (CMVB, CMIB, or CMCB), sophomore standing

Required Materials:
• Text – The Complete Percussionist (second edition), Robert Breithaupt: CL Barnhouse, 2005
• Snare drum sticks – Vic Firth SD1 General
• Practice pad – Remo Practice Pad – 10” tunable or Vic Firth Single Sided Practice Pad – 12” (pad12)

all materials are available for purchase through Steve Weiss Music:

Course Overview and Objective:
• We will cover material on playing and teaching techniques for orchestral, jazz, and marching percussion, equipment purchasing and maintenance, solo and ensemble literature, teaching philosophies, and other topics relevant to percussion education. The primary goal of this course is to provide you as future music educators with the knowledge and resources to administer a successful percussion program within the boundaries of a Jr. High/High School music department.

Grades:
• Grades will be determined by the following:
• Quizzes/Written assignments..........................30%
• Final Project..................................................35%
• Playing proficiency.........................................20%
• Class Participation..........................................15%

• At my discretion, there may be unannounced quizzes on the reading assignments. These grades will be averaged into your semester quiz grade.
• Reminder – you may drop the course with a grade of “W” until midsemester.

Procedures:
• I will use email if I need to communicate with you outside of class. Please check your email often. If you contact me via email, I will reply as soon as I can.
• Classes will consist of lectures and playing. If we have time at the end of a particular lecture we may finish the class by playing. Please bring all materials (notebook, text, sticks, pad) to every class.
• There will be several brief research/written assignments. The schedule and subject for these will depend on the class’ rate of progress. Written assignments must be typewritten, and spelling/grammer will count. Late assignments will receive half credit if turned in on the next class day, and lose a letter grade for every calendar day thereafter.
• Readings will be assigned, the schedule of which will be determined by the class’ rate of progress. Readings should be completed and prepared for discussion as assigned in class.
• There will be approximately 3 quizzes throughout the semester. Some of these quizzes may have a playing component in addition to the written portion. All playing techniques required on quizzes will be covered in class.
• Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. Discuss items needed in this class. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT) or email: haynemd@auburn.edu.
• The University-set final exam is scheduled for ________________.

Class Participation:
• Your participation in daily discussions are greatly encouraged. Keeping up with all assigned readings and research will allow you to participate fully in class discussions. Be inquisitive, and be willing discuss your ideas and views with the class.

Attendance:
- Attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 1 half letter. In order for an absence to be excused, it must be cleared by me at least 1 class meeting in advance. In the case of an emergency, contact me as soon as possible.
- Written proof of absences for medical reasons is required by the next class meeting.
- Quizzes and tests missed without a written medical or university excuse will not be made up. The student is responsible for contacting the professor to arrange a time to make up quizzes and tests no later than one week following an excused absence. The quizzes and tests should be completed within 2 weeks of contacting the instructor. If a student is not able to turn in written assignments or the final project by the due dates because of an excused or unexcused absence, he/she is responsible for contacting the professor no later than one week following the absence to arrange a new due date. This new date must be no later than one week after the time the student contacts the professor. The grade for written assignments and projects that are late because of unexcused absences will lowered by 5 percentage points for each assignment or project.

**Academic Honesty:**
All students in this class are expected to follow the Student Academic Honesty Code found in Section 5 of *The Tiger Cub Student Handbook.*

**Playing Proficiencies:**
- At the end of the semester you will demonstrate your playing proficiency on a prepared snare drum piece as well as demonstrating correct playing techniques on keyboard, timpani, bass drum, crash cymbals, suspended cymbal, triangle, and tambourine. The proper techniques for playing all these instruments as well as the snare drum piece will be covered thoroughly in class. These demonstrations are important; they comprise 20% of your final grade.

**Final Project:**
- This course will generate a final project. The project will be the assembly of all information covered (as well as some research done on your own) into a comprehensive percussion resource. You will assimilate all materials into a notebook that is well organized, easy to read, and contains all class notes, assignments, handouts, corrected quizzes, and any additional materials that you deem appropriate. The goal is to leave the course with a resource that will allow you to answer virtually any question about percussion that may arise when teaching in a public school setting.
- Specifics for the final project will be outlined in a separate handout.
• The final project will be due during week 14 and will be returned on the last day of class.

Class Schedule:
Week 1: snare drum playing techniques
Week 2: snare drum: types, tuning, maintenance
Week 3: keyboard percussion instruments: types, tuning, functions
Week 4: timpani: types, tuning, maintenance, playing techniques
Week 5: snare drum playing review
Week 6: drum set: instruments, tuning, maintenance
Week 7: drumset playing techniques, musical styles
Week 8: bass drum: general information and playing techniques
Week 9: cymbals: general information and playing techniques
Week 10: auxiliary percussion: general information and playing techniques
Week 11: marching percussion: equipment techniques
Week 12: marching percussion: playing and teaching techniques
Week 13: percussion ensemble: literature
Week 14: general equipment care, repair
Week 15: purchasing, inventory