Marching Band Techniques Syllabus
MUSI 4090
Auburn University Fall Semester 2007
Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-9:15 a.m.
Dr. Corey Spurlin, Instructor

Office Hours:
131 Goodwin
M,W 2:00-3:00 p.m. (or by appointment)
334-844-4166
cspurlin@auburn.edu

Required Course Materials:
Textbooks = The System; Marching Band Methods by Gary E. Smith.
Marching Band: A Field Guide by Tim Hinton
1 1/2 inch Binder with tabs (History, Administration, Music, Drill)
Flexible clear ruler
1 GB Jump Drive
3 Blank CDs

Course Objectives:
To understand the history, philosophy, and values of the high school and college
marching band.
To develop and explore techniques for organizing and administering a contemporary high
school marching band
To develop music and drill writing skills, enabling the student to create a
competition/festival style and/or spirit building or traditional marching band show
using computer software.
To cultivate an understanding of the elements involved in teaching a high school
marching band.

Course Activities:
Class discussions and lecturers
Drill writing assignments
Reading and regular academic assignments (TYPED)
Written examinations
Mid-term and final projects

Evaluation:
Assignments, and exams 50%
Mid-term project 20%
Final Project 30%

Attendance:
Class begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one
unexcused absence. Excused absences are defined in the Tiger Cub.
Assignments:
Assignments must be turned in on time. Absence is not an excuse for failure to turn in an assignment. One letter grade will automatically be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

Accommodations:
Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting no later than the second week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. Be prepared to discuss specific 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.
Marching Band Techniques  
MUSI 4090  
Fall 2007 Course Outline

Tue., Aug. 21 = Intro to MBT (syllabus and course outline) & Short History of Marching Band

Thur., Aug. 23 = Band History; Leadership Session  
Reading: Smith Chapter 1 (p. 1-10)

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Tue., Aug. 28 = MB Administration (Knowing Your Program, Getting Organized, Creating a Handbook, Establishing Expectations)  
Reading: Smith Chapter 2 (p. 11-14)  
Assignment 1 Due: Band History Presentation (5 points)

Thur., Aug. 30 = MB Administration (Band Booster Organizations, Development, Trip Planning)  
Exam: MB History (10 points)

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Tue., Sept. 4 = MB Administration (Band Camp, Technique Manuals, Teaching Marching Fundamentals)  
Reading: Smith Chapter 3 and 5 (p. 15-21, 31-28)

Thur., Sept. 6 = MB Materials, Uniforms  
Assignment 2 Due: Philosophy of Teaching (5 points)

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Tue., Sept. 11 = MB Administration (Festivals/Competitions/Adjudicating systems; Auditions)

Thur., Sept. 13 = Exam: MB Administration (10 points)

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Tue., Sept. 18 = Music Session (Developing Fundamentals, Sound Concept, Rehearsal Techniques)  
Reading: Smith Chapter 4 (p. 26-28)  
Assignment 3 Due: Handbook Outline (5 points)

Thur., Sept. 20 = Music Session (Introduction to Arranging)

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Tue., Sept. 25 = Music Session (Show Design Concepts)  
Reading: Smith Chapter 7 (p. 48-83)  
Assignment 4 Due: Show Concepts/Ideas (Extra Credit)

Thur., Sept. 27 = Basic Principles of Drill Design  
Reading: Smith Chapter 6 (p. 43-45)

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Tue., Oct. 2 = Basic Principles of Drill Design

Thur., Oct. 4 = Basic Principles of Drill Design  
MIDTERM PROJECT DUE: Band Handbook (20 pts)

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Tue., Oct. 9 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)  
Assignment 5 Due: Charting Letters (5 points)

Thur., Oct. 11 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)  
Assignment 6 Due: Class Charting Exercise (2 points)

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Tue., Oct. 16 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)

Thur., Oct. 18 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)  
Assignment 7 Due: Class Charting Exercise (2 points)
Tue., Oct. 23 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)

Thur., Oct. 25 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)
   Assignment 8 Due: Class Charting Exercise (2 points)

Tue., Oct. 30 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)

Thur., Nov. 1 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)
   Assignment 9 Due: Class Charting Exercise (2 points)

Tue., Nov. 6 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)

Thur., Nov. 8 = Drill Charting (Using Pyware 3D Java)
   Assignment 10 Due: Class Charting Exercise (2 points)

Tue., Nov. 13  = Lab Work - Final Project

Thur., Nov. 15  = Lab Work - Final Project

Mon., Nov. 19 - Fri. Nov. 24 = NO SCHOOL; THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS!

Tue., Nov. 27 = Lab Work - Final Project

Thur., Nov. 29 = Lab Work - Final Project

Tue., Dec. 4 = Lab Work on Final Project

Thur., Dec. 6 = FINAL PROJECT DUE (30 points)