Percussion Ensemble Syllabus
MUEN 1133.001 and 3133.001 – Percussion Ensemble (1 sem. hrs.)
MF 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM
Undergraduate Course
Spring of Academic Year 2019/2020

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Department of Music

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1. Course Objectives: Purpose and Expectations

To explore, develop and expand the technical, as well as the musical/artistic aspects associated with percussion playing, music making, chamber music, and concert performance. The studies encompass focus on percussion technique, extending the knowledge of chamber music literature, exploring one’s personal/global artistic perspective, and reflection. The level and pace of study will be determined by the ability and experience of each individual student within the assigned group.

Every student is required to fully prepare as directed by the instructor for each lesson, coaching, rehearsal, or performance. All assignments are to be attended to and mastered, as instructed.

2. Methods:

• Coachings:
Chamber music groups will meet with the instructor according to the pre-arranged schedule established within the first week of the semester. Any scheduling conflict must be resolved at least 24 hours ahead of time so that it could be made up or excused.

• Rehearsals:
Chamber music groups are expected to meet and rehearse at least two times between coaching sessions. Depending on the demand of the repertoire, each rehearsal should be one to two hours in duration. The rehearsal schedule should be established/set for the entirety of the semester and reported to the instructor by the end of the second week of classes.

• Performances:
All students participating in chamber music are expected to perform at the percussion studio concert. Additional performances may include but are not limited to recitals, recruiting events, or other concert occasions. Performance dates can be found in the studio calendar.

Lateness, Absences, Re-scheduling

• Lateness:
If a student arrives later than 10 minutes to any lesson, coaching, master class or studio class, they will be considered absent*. This may result in student’s suspension from the session for the day.
Arriving within the initial 10 minutes of a session would result in "lateness". Arriving late more than 5 times in any given percussion course per semester may result in failing that course.

* Except in cases of illness, emergencies or faculty pre-approved lateness (minimum of 24-hour email notice required). Approval for lateness is not guaranteed.

• Absences:
  Every unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for that session. More than 2 unexcused absences per semester can lead to failing the given course. Excused absences constitute family emergencies and health-related issues supported by a doctor’s note.

• Re-scheduling coachings
  In case of an excused absence, students are responsible for re-scheduling their coaching within the following two weeks. Failing to do so may result in a failing grade. The instructor is responsible for rescheduling any lessons missed in relation to her performance/professional schedule.

3. Required materials
• Students are expected to discuss the matter with the instructor. The materials assigned will be based on a case-by-case basis.

4. Instrument policy
• Students are to treat every percussion instrument in our collection with most care and respect. All instruments are to be properly covered, organized, and stowed after use (practice or performance). If an instrument is found outside of its intended location, the student must ensure the instrument is safely put back. Keeping the department organized is a priority. Mistreating or acting irresponsibly toward the instruments, as well as disregarding the policies below will result in suspension of certain or all instrument use privileges.

Instrument Maintenance:
- If you notice any instrument needing maintenance or attention, please contact the instructor immediately providing a photograph or video of the issue.

5. Assessment and Grading Policy
• Grades for the course are based on:
  - Preparation of assigned material
  - Required/scheduled public performances
  - Attendance/timely presence (lessons, coachings, master classes, other events)

• During their coachings students may ask for their current grade status and justification and/or suggestion on how to improve or maintain the final grade.

• The most important part of a student's grade is their weekly coaching, as well as the consistency and quality of their work.

• Student will be graded on a 100-point scale until the very end of the semester when those grades will be converted to the letter system. The grading system is explained below:

Coaching(s): 70% of the final grade
Performance(s): 15% of the final grade
Attendance: 15% of the final grade

**Point system:**
95-100 = A  
87-95 = A-  
80-87 = B  
75-80 = B-  
70-75 = C  
65-70 = C-  
60-65 = D  
Below 60 = F

(A, A-) The assignment is very well prepared. There is significant technical improvement. Musicianship is strong, and the student demonstrates enthusiasm for the music and the learning process.

(B, B-) The assignment is well prepared and there is some technical improvement. Musicality is present but needs work. Overall, there is progress from the previous week and the student demonstrates interest in the instrument and the music – however, there is room for improvement.

(C, C-) The assignment is not well prepared, and technique demonstrates very little work being put. Musicality is generally absent. Student's performance in the lesson is generally below expectations.

(D) The assignment is clearly not prepared, and the student is using his/her lesson time to practice. There is a struggle with the basics of technique and the student has made no improvement. The student's performance is completely lacking in musicality and the student shows little enthusiasm for the instrument and music.

(F) Criteria is similar to the previous section (D). The student demonstrates serious attitude problems or fails to show up for their coaching/rehearsal.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final
degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 10th will be the last date to drop your class and receive a “W”

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.