



Course Syllabus: Percussion Ensemble

Fain College of Fine Arts

MUSC 4081

Fall 2026

Classroom: FA 105

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Corey Robinson

Office: Fain Instrumental Music Building 104A

Office hours: Posted on office door

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Course Description

Percussion Ensemble is open to all percussion, music majors, and non-majors by audition. The percussion ensemble performs concerts throughout the semester. Repertoire includes standard and new literature for small and large ensembles, as well as contemporary ensembles.

The Midwestern State University Percussion Ensemble is open to both percussion majors and non-majors. This ensemble serves as the primary chamber ensemble for percussion literature at MSU. Each semester the ensemble will perform a concert that incorporates different styles and genres of music commonly performed by percussion ensembles. These styles include, but are not limited to:

- Standard, modern percussion ensemble literature
- Historical works from the first half of the 20th century
- New commissions and premiers
- Jazz and popular music
- Non-Western music
- Various experimental and theatrical music

Throughout the semester, each class meeting will consist of musical rehearsals of the literature that is programmed for the culminating concert. A rehearsal schedule for the week will be sent out by Monday for that week's rehearsals.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Our primary goal is to produce musical performances of the highest caliber, for the benefit and enjoyment of the ensemble members and our audiences. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Through performance, demonstrate improvement in the development of musicianship and chamber ensemble skills
- Perform and discuss various styles of percussion ensemble literature
- Develop a broad understanding of the history, common styles, and repertoire of the percussion ensemble medium to successfully lead a percussion ensemble in the future.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Students will be graded on their preparedness for each rehearsal, attendance, and professionalism.

Table 1: Percentages allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Preparedness for Rehearsal	50%
Attendance	25%
Professionalism	25%

Preparedness – 50%

All ensemble members are expected to prepare the parts assigned them through individual practice outside of class time. This is the single most important factor in having effective rehearsals and, as a result, excellent performances. You must practice your parts and come to ensemble rehearsals prepared. If everyone meets this expectation, we will have a positive experience and make great strides toward reaching our full potential.

Attendance – 25%

You must be at every rehearsal and performance. A schedule for each rehearsal will be distributed to each member of the ensemble with advanced notice. Plan to attend every scheduled meeting. There is a chance that there will be a few rehearsals where you do not have to attend because we will be working on music for which you do not have a part. These cases will be minimal. Absences will be excused for the following reasons: Illness, death in the family, or an approved and school-sponsored trip. Any other reasons will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In order for any of these absences to be excused, I must be notified in advance. Two or more unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your final grade in the course. Absence from any dress rehearsal or concert results in an automatic F.

Below is the list of required events for the semester:

Date	Time	Location	Event
9-12	7:00pm	Travis Park	WFSO Latin Jazz Concert (choose 1+)
11-14	7:30pm	First Baptist Church	WFSO Concert-Rhapsody in Blue (choose 1+)
11-3	6-9pm	IRH	Dress Rehearsal
11-16	6-9pm	Akin Auditorium	Dress Rehearsal
11-17	7:30pm	Akin Auditorium	Percussion Ensemble Concert
12-12	7:30pm	First United Methodist Ch.	WFSO Concert-Holliday (choose 1+)
TBA	TBA	Akin Auditorium	Gabrieal Santisteven Recital

Professionalism – 25%

Acting professionally in this course not only means acting appropriately during rehearsals but also that everyone is set up for rehearsal with the equipment that is needed on time. Each student is required to be set up by the beginning of the rehearsal for the pieces that we are rehearsing that day. If you are coming from another class that is far away, set up earlier in the day. If at all possible, try not to schedule anything before percussion ensemble so you have plenty of time to move equipment and be prepared to play on time. There are no excuses in this area, as our limited rehearsal time can not be wasted trying to get set up.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 27, 2026
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Communication

I am typically very quick at responding to questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me by email (corey.robinson@msutexas.edu) at any time. Do not wait until your next lesson to tell me that you did not understand an assignment or could not retrieve the required materials. If you let me know ahead of time, I will be more likely to be able to help resolve the situation. If I contact you, a response is expected within 24 hours.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Campus Closure Policy

If Midwestern State University authorizes campus closing procedures, rehearsals and performances for this course will be canceled with no expectation of meeting synchronously online. Performances may be rescheduled.