

Applied Percussion Instruction – AMUS 4261

Midwestern State University

Spring 2021 Syllabus – General Information

Instructor: Dr. Corey Robinson

Course Number: AMUS 4261

Class Location: Fain Instrumental Music Hall 104A

Class Time: By appointment

Email: corey.robinson@msutexas.edu

Phone: (940) 397-4054

Office: Fain Instrumental Music Hall 101 (office hours posted on door)

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to develop students into well-rounded percussionists with a proficiency covering the many requirements of a modern musician. Areas of study will include technique, performance practice, pedagogy, repertoire selection, instrument maintenance, and entrepreneurship. Instruments of study will include snare drum, keyboard percussion, timpani, orchestral accessories, and drum set. Other areas of interest to the student will be considered and the distribution of study on each instrument will be tailored to the goals and needs of each individual student.

Applied Percussion is a once-per-week meeting between the student and the teacher. The course is open to BM Teaching Certification majors, BA majors and music minors and may be repeated for credit.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency on at least two instruments of study through performance of common repertoire and etudes.
- Discuss the historical relevance of each instrument and where the repertoire they are performing exists in the historical timeline.
- Integrate concepts learned in other areas to their performance of the literature. These other areas could include, but are not limited to music theory, music history, aural skills, world history, and music education.

Student Assessment:

Students will be graded according to their lesson preparation and their development and improvement throughout the term.

Weekly Preparation – 70%

Quality of preparation, consistency of preparation, consistency in progress, literature and technical material covered. Students will receive a letter grade for each scheduled lesson. Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A – Work is representative of flawless attendance and mastery of all assigned materials from week to week. The student demonstrates the capacity to take additional assignments and progresses at an accelerated pace through the various levels of ability.
- B – Work is representative of flawless attendance and mastery of most assigned materials from week to week. The student completes the assignments with occasional mistakes but does not demonstrate the capacity to go beyond the normal pace of assignments. Occasionally assignments must be repeated. Steady progress through the various ability levels is evident in all areas.
- C – Work represents below average progress in moving through the materials. Assignments are frequently repeated because of the lack of mastery.
- D – Work represents consistent poorly prepared lessons. This performance may result in a recommendation to drop the course before the end of the semester.
- F – Work represents no effort or interest in studying percussion.

Preparation is critical to success in applied lessons. Most of the learning that takes place occurs by oneself in a practice room. I am here to guide you towards situations where you can successfully make progress toward your goals. The minimum requirement for personal practice is 2 hours a day, 6 days a week for percussion majors, and 1 hour a day, 6 days a week for percussion minors. More practice is encouraged as the competitiveness of any musical field continues to increase year by year. The importance of improving yourself as a musician is paramount, as it will translate directly to your success as a teacher, performer, administrator, or industry worker.

Recital Performance – 15%

All students are required to perform at least once each semester at Student Recital (Wednesdays 4:00-4:50pm). The performance will be graded on musicianship, professionalism, and technical proficiency. First semester freshmen are exempt from performing.

Jury – 15%

All students are required to perform a jury at the end of the semester. The jury will be based on the instruments and materials covered throughout the semester. Grading of the performance will be based on overall musicianship, professionalism, technical proficiency, and improvement over the course of the semester. Juries this semester are tentatively scheduled for April 26-27, 2021.

Attendance

You must attend each of the weekly scheduled lessons throughout the semester. 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. The final grade for this course will be reduced by one letter for each unexcused absence after the first. In addition to attending each lesson, all students enrolled in applied lessons are required to attend all percussion related concerts (Percussion Ensemble, student degree recitals, faculty/guest recitals) as well as the Music at Akin series of concerts.

Curriculum and Materials:

The curriculum for this course will be determined collaboratively by the teacher and the student in order to address the specific goals of each individual student. You will be required to buy a substantial number of method books, pieces of music, recordings, implements, and instruments. Plan for this every semester as there are no “textbooks” required for this course. All of these materials will help you when you leave MSU. Before you make a significant purchase, discuss your plans with me, as I can guide you in the right direction and help you avoid mistakes that I have made in the past.

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.

COVID-19 Information:

This course will fully comply with all recommendations and guidelines given through the “MSU Taskforce to Return to Campus” report. Here is a link to their complete report: <https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/assets/files/december-2020-reopening-taskforce-report.pdf>. Another helpful resource is the MSU Texas Coronavirus Update page which can be found here: <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/index.php>.

There are some additional points that I would like to emphasize.

- 1) Masks will be required for all students during rehearsals from the moment of entering the Instrumental Music Hall until leaving. No practicing is to occur in the building or on shared instruments without the use of a proper face covering.
- 2) Should the University community decide to move to a closed campus with remote teaching, we will still work to perform all of our music through individual recording sessions. If we have to leave campus, you still must meet the requirements for this course.
- 3) Cleaning protocols for the percussion area are attached to the end of this document.

- 4) If you need assistance or would like to meet with me during my office hours, the best way to contact me is through email. We will then schedule a Zoom call as soon as possible. An in-person meeting can also be scheduled if necessary.
- 5) Social distancing will occur throughout every rehearsal and meeting.
- 6) If you are feeling in any way sick, do not come to campus, and contact me immediately.

Other Information:

Special Needs

If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, (2) has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or (3) requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center (940) 397-4140 and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible.

Student Conduct

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and assigning a final lower grade, up to and including an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Privacy Statement

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss a students' academic progress or other matters with his/her parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

Social Justice

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Campus Carry Policy Website.