

Percussion Ensemble – MUSC 4081

Midwestern State University

Fall 2020 Syllabus – General Information

Instructor: Dr. Corey Robinson

Course Number: MUSC 4081

Class Location: Fain Instrumental Music Hall 105

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-4:50pm

Email: corey.robinson@msutexas.edu

Phone: (940) 397-4054

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

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

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 Assessment:

Each student will be graded on their preparedness for each rehearsal (50%), attendance (25%), and professionalism (25%).

Preparedness

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

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.

Professionalism

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.

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 rehearsal to tell me that you did not understand an assignment or that you lost your music. 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.

Important Dates:

| Date | Time | Event |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| October 27 | 6-9:00 pm | Percussion Ensemble Dress Rehearsal, IRH |
| October 29 | 7:30 pm | Percussion Ensemble Concert, Location TBA |
| November 11-14 | All Day | PASIC Online Convention |
| November 19 | 6:00pm | "In C" Performance, Sunwatcher Plaza |

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/return-to-campus-taskforce-8-4-20.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, up to and including the concert.
- 6) If you are feeling in any way sick, do not attend rehearsal, 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.