

TAMU-Commerce
Marching Band Technique
MUS 404.001
Spring 2024 Course Orientation

Allan F. Goodwin, instructor

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Meeting Time: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Location: Music Building 209 (Lab)

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GTA: TDB

E-Mail: TDB

Course Description and Objectives

Understand the practical history of the marching band and drum & bugle corps activities in The United States

Understand the four-fold purpose of marching band

Develop a list of resources for stock and custom marching design possibilities

Gain practical exposure to marching band show design, storyboarding, and production

Gain exposure to concepts in traditional and contemporary arranging and musical design

Understand the legal issues and limitations pertaining to copyright and intellectual property

Design custom drill to pre-arranged music

Understand the primary schools of thought with respect to marching fundamentals

Develop a repertoire of drill / music cleaning concepts

Understand appropriate pacing of marching arts instruction

Gain exposure to marching adjudication and evaluation

Understand the considerations in selecting marching band competitions appropriate for ensembles at every level

Demonstrate the use of:

- Audio editing software
- Traditional (paper and pencil) drill design tools
- Computer-based drill design software
- App-based marching band instructional tools

Required Course Materials

- 32 GB USB Flash Drive
- Ultimate Drill Book Pro App (cost TBD)
 - Available on Apple Store and Googly Play
- Audacity Audio Editing Software
 - <https://www.audacityteam.org>
- Headphones/earbuds with 1/8" adaptor
- Access to an Apple Macintosh computer
- Couse-Pack (\$20.00 approximately)
- 2" 3-Ring Binder

Highly Recommended Course Materials

- 6-month college-student subscription to Pyware Version 11 (\$99.00)
- <https://www.pyware.com/welcome-back-to-school/#>

Lab Hours

- To be announced
- A minimum of 12 hours per week will be available

Course Engagement

Engagement in the course is the student's responsibility. Students are expected to fully participate in the courses whether face-to-face or in a virtual modality. It is also imperative students and faculty communicate consistently and frequently. If, for any reason, you, the student, are not able to complete assignments or actively engage in the course, you **MUST** contact your instructor. Engagement and Participation in the course will be assessed per the individual instructor.

Attendance

Unexcused absences in excess of TWO (2) will result in a lowering of the final earned grade at the rate of ONE (1) letter grade for each TWO (2) absences.

Example: 1-2 absences = No Effect
 3-4 absences = Grade lowered by 1 letter grade
 5-6 absences = Grade lowered by 2 letter grades
 7+ absences = Grade of D if withdrawal requested (or) final grade of F

Conduct

- All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).
- In order to maintain a focused learning environment it is required that **all cellular phones and other hand-held electronic devices be turned off or made inaudible during class.**
- As this course is computer based, all work will be done using Apple computer products. Lab computers are not to be used for personal reasons (sending/responding to emails, web browsing, etc.)

Grading

- Grades will be determined on the basis of:
 - Notebook 10%
 - Assignments and Projects 90%

Please Note: Assignments will be accepted late only in the event of an excused absence with clear and timely communication! Appropriate documentation verifying the excused absence should accompany the assignment. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. *Note: If the situation warrants a shift to fully based virtual learning at any point, additional assignments may be added and grading percentages adjusted accordingly.

Grading Scale

- 90 – 100% A
- 80–89% B
- 70–79% C
- 60–69% D
- 00–59% F

Grading Detail

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Notebook | 10% |
| 2. Homework | 20% |
| ○ Philosophy Statement | |
| ○ Pacing Diagram | |
| ○ Audio Editing Project | |
| ○ Flow Chart / Segment Sheet | |
| ○ Drill Sketch Assignment | |
| ○ Notebook Check (resources research) | |
| ○ Rehearsal Plan | |
| 3. Drill Design Final Project | 30% |
| 4. Written / Taped Adjudication Project | 20% |
| 5. Final Exam | 20% |

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

Department of Music Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

GRADUATE POLICIES

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

A&M Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M- Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Technology Requirements

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support: https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_supp

[rt.htm](#)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Class Schedule Detail

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
1/11	Introduction to course, Roundtable discussion, History of marching band	
1/16	Marching band history, purpose, philosophy	
1/18	Marching band, UIL, Curricular goals and TEKS	<i>Philosophy Statement</i>
1/23	Marching band design elements, What makes a show effective?	
1/25	The music selection process vs. Thematic design, The chicken and the egg	
1/30	Music Design resources (stock, semi-custom, custom, in-house)	<i>Notebook Check</i>
2/1	Arranging for marching band, Copyright, licensing, Intellectual property	
2/6	Musical Storyboards / Editing music	
2/8	No Class – TMEA Convention (resources research)	
2/13	Editing music	<i>Pacing Diagram</i>
2/15	Flowcharts / Segment sheets	
2/20	Introduction to charting, The “old school”	<i>Audacity Assignment</i>
2/22	Drill charting concepts, Pencil sketches	
2/27	Drill charting concepts, Digital sketching	<i>Flowchart</i>
2/29	Charting, Digital design	
3/5	Charting, Digital design	<i>Pencil Sketch</i>
3/7	Charting, Digital design	
3/12	No Class – Spring Break	
3/14	No Class – Spring Break	
3/19	Charting, Digital design	<i>MML Assignment</i>
3/21	Marching fundamentals, Schools of thought	
3/26	Marching fundamentals lab	
3/28	Rehearsal techniques – Visual	
4/2	Rehearsal techniques – Visual continued	<i>Pyware Assignment</i>
4/4	Rehearsal techniques – Musical	
4/9	Rehearsal techniques – Musical continued	
4/11	Color Guard Clinic	
4/16	Selecting contests, festivals and competitions, Philosophy, Contest formats	
4/18	Marching band adjudication and UIL	<i>Rehearsal Plan</i>
4/23	Adjudication Clinic	
4/25	Adjudication lab, Judging tapes	

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
4/30	Exam Review	<i>Written Comments</i>
	4/29	<i>Live Adjudication Final</i> 5:00 PM _____ 5:15 PM _____ 5:30 PM _____ 5:45 PM _____ 6:00 PM _____
	4/30	<i>Live Adjudication Final</i> 5:00 PM _____ 5:15 PM _____ 5:30 PM _____ 5:45 PM _____ 6:00 PM _____
5/2	Dead Day – No Class	
5/7	Final Exam (10:30 AM – 12:30 AM)	<i>Notebook Due</i>
5/9	No Class	