



EAST TEXAS A&M
— U N I V E R S I T Y —
School of Music

Percussion Methods II
MUS 166-01E & MUS 166-02E
Spring 2026 – Tuesday & Thursday

Instructors

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Purpose

The Percussion Methods Course is designed to introduce music majors to basic techniques and fundamentals, instruments, ideologies, and pedagogical approaches to instruments within the percussion family. Students will gain knowledge of how to play and teach major percussion instruments commonly encountered in public school band programs.

Requirements

Students are required to attend class regularly due to the course's practical, laboratory-based approach. A minimal amount of outside reading will be required; however, considerable time must be devoted to individual practice. Most equipment will be provided; however, students will assume responsibility for any loss or damage. Refer to the Instrument Contract for details.

Grading

Attendance is expected. The final grade will be lowered one full letter for each unexcused absence after two. Excused absences will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading Breakdown:

- Six video practicum quizzes – 75 points each (450 total)
- Two performance/rehearsal reviews – 75 points each (150 total)
- Concert preparation/performance – 100 points
- Class engagement/participation – 100 points
- Final binder/notebook – 100 points
- Final exam – 100 points

Total: 1000 points

Practicum Video Quizzes

Students will submit six video assignments based on the subject material currently covered in class. Example topics include:

- Accessories
- Timpani
- Drum set
- Hand drums/world percussion
- Marching percussion
- Percussion ensemble/band literature

Performance/Rehearsal Reviews

Students are required to attend two rehearsals or concerts for one of the East Texas A&M University percussion ensembles or bands and submit a one-page critique (single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1” margins).

Reviews should focus on:

- The type and quality of feedback given by the ensemble director
- Techniques used by percussionists to achieve desired sounds
- Effectiveness or ineffectiveness of those techniques
- Stick/mallet choices and appropriateness
- Physical setup of instruments and rationale
- Performance challenges (rhythmic, technical, conceptual, endurance, etc.) and how they might be addressed as an ensemble director

Concert Preparation/Performance

Students will prepare the required musical material for a public class performance on a spring percussion concert or recital. Tentative dates are listed in the course schedule.

Class Engagement/Participation

Students are expected to actively engage in each class through questions, musical exploration, and overall intellectual curiosity.

Final Binder/Notebook

Students must organize notes, handouts, warm-ups, and materials according to each section of the course. A three-ring binder with dividers should be used to label and organize each major instrument family studied. The binder is due on the final exam date.

Materials Needed

Each student is responsible for purchasing:

1. One pair of Innovative Percussion IP-KW or IP-LD concert snare drum sticks (Available at www.steveweissmusic.com or other music retailers)
2. *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* by Kennan Wylie (Available at www.steveweissmusic.com or www.kwylie.com)
3. One 1½" three-ring binder

Other Suggested Materials

Students are encouraged to join the Percussive Arts Society for access to student and teacher resources:

<https://www.pas.org/memberships/individual>

Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the Instrumental Methods course sequence, students will be able to:

1. Perform at a beginning level on all required instruments
2. Identify fingerings of major woodwind and brass instruments
3. Demonstrate stickings and techniques of major percussion instruments
4. Discuss tone production, posture, and sound quality
5. Discuss major beginning methods texts
6. Analyze and diagnose performance problems on major instruments

Percussion Methods Engagement Policy

Due to the hands-on nature of the course, regular attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Engagement accounts for 10% of the final grade, and unexcused absences will be deducted proportionally.

Calendar / Schedule

January

- 13 – Introduction (course goals, logistics, personal survey)
- 15 – Weather/Building issues
- 20 – Accessories (triangle, tambourine)
- 22 – Accessories (suspended cymbals, hand cymbals, tam tam)
- 27 – Accessories (concert toms, concert bass drum)
- 29 – Accessories (castanets, bell tree/mark tree, finger cymbals, sleigh bells, temple blocks, sound effects)

February

- 3 – Timpani (setup, maintenance, technique)
- 5 – Timpani (tuning, muffling, sticking)
- 10 – No class (TMEA Convention)
- 12 – Accessory/Timpani review (in-class performance)
- 17 – Drum set (notation and setup)
- 24 – Drum set (styles)
- 26 – Hand drums/world percussion (bongos, shakers, cowbells, maracas)

March

- 3 – Hand drums/world percussion (congas, claves, guiro, timbales)
- 5 – Review (in-class performance)

(Spring Break)

- 17 – Marching percussion (front ensemble concepts)
- 19 – Marching percussion (snare and tenor concepts)
- 24 – Marching percussion (bass drum and cymbal concepts)
- 26 – Marching percussion (ensemble concepts)
- 28 – Marching percussion review (in-class performance)
- 31 – Percussion ensemble/band literature

April

- 2 – Percussion ensemble/band literature
- 7 – Percussion ensemble/band literature

- 9 – Percussion ensemble/band literature
- 14 – Percussion ensemble/band literature
- 16 – Percussion ensemble/band literature
- 21 – Percussion ensemble/band literature (tentative)
- 23 – Resources (player development and literature)
- *26 – Performance (Night of Percussion) 6pm
- 28 – Resources (teaching resources and percussion communities)
- 30 – Resources (teaching resources and percussion communities)

May

- 2 – Final exam review #1**
- 4 – Final exam review #2**

Finals Week: May 2–8

Written final exam
(Final binder/notebook due)

Course and University Procedures / Policies

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University 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:

East Texas A&M University 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.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and **13.99.99.R0.01 Class Attendance**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

School of Music Engagement Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all assigned components of this course. Active participation includes being present, engaged, responsive, cooperative, respectful, and professional. It may also include providing feedback, asking questions, and being supportive of class members and faculty during instruction time.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes. Notification for excused absence must be received in advance. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor.

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes by coming prepared and with all assigned materials. This course is a graduate research course. Bibliographical material, repertoire, library resources, applied techniques, as well as research techniques applicable to graduate study in music specific to flute/woodwind pedagogy will be surveyed and discussed. Be prepared to spend a significant amount of time doing research and review of materials outside of class.

Students are expected to demonstrate skills in pedagogy through their observation, analysis, discussion and feedback of the performances of other students. Students are expected to gain skills in this area by the observation of teaching techniques in their own private lessons and through the observation of teaching techniques of other students in studio class, guest artist classes on campus, and optional conference attendance or optional observations of master teachers online. Students will need to submit teaching videos and acquire a waiver from the student(s) in their videos.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor. After one (1) unexcused absence, the student's final grade will be dropped by one (1) letter grade for each additional unexcused absence.

Late Assignments or Work

No Late Work accepted.

Texas Education Code – Music Education

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."

Musician Health and Safety

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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:

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

[13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

AI use policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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_support.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@etamu.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 ETAMU 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>

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835;

email studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu; online at

[Student Disability Services](#)

or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

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. (See current Student Guidebook)

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

[34.06.02.R1 Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.