



Texas A&M University-Commerce

Department of Music

Percussion Literature: MUS 489-001 & 526.004

Spring 2026: Thursday, 3:30-5:20, Room 209

Instructor: Mr. Jeff Ausdemore

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Office hours by appointment

Purpose:

The Percussion Literature Course is designed to introduce students to the primary percussion solo, ensemble and orchestral literature. Students will gain knowledge, organize lists and locate resources for this music. Through this research, students will be able to classify composers and literature into time periods and stylistic genre. Students will understand a broad history of percussion instruments and be able to formulate time lines of important events in percussion history.

Requirements:

Students are expected to attend every class. Outside reading, weekly assignments and knowledge of the assigned topic will be required. Considerable time will also be devoted to research, planning presentations, and completing solo & ensemble lists. Reference materials will be used from the various supplemental materials, Mr. Ausdemore's lists, the PAS website, publisher websites, percussion databases and books. All students must be members of PAS.

Grading-Grad Students:

Weekly Assignments, Weekly Presentations & Excel sheets: 25%

Research Presentation: 15%

Graduate Exams (3, including Final Exam): 60% - 20% each exam

- Weekly Assignments: Students are required to complete the weekly assignments. The completed sheets must be posted to D2L by 3:30 pm on the class day.

- Weekly Presentations: Students will give presentations on pieces from the PML excel sheets,

pieces assigned by Mr. Ausdemore, or with regard to the Weekly Assignments. Students should be prepared to give a 5-10-minute presentation to the class.

- Excel sheets: Students are required to complete the database information on the excel sheets. These will be emailed to students the week before the assignment is due. The completed sheets must be posted to D2L by 3:30 pm on the class day. Corrections to your work may or may not be required.

- Research Presentation: Students are required to give a presentation on a topic of his/her choosing. Topics may include, but not be limited to: composers, solos, method books, curriculum plans, percussion genres, history of the percussion instruments, etc.

- Exams: All exams, except the Final Exam will be take-home exams. Mr. Ausdemore will send the exam and link to audio files to students by 11:59 pm on Thursday. They must be turned in to D2L, before 11:59 pm Friday. The Honor system will be used: DO NOT work with any of the other students in the class; exams should be taken individually and ***not*** as a group. The final Exam will be cumulative and will occur on campus during Finals week.

Graduate exams will consist of short answers, fill in the blanks, multiple choice, matching and essay questions.

Grading-Undergrad Students:

Weekly Assignments, Weekly Presentations & Excel sheets: 40%

Research Presentation: Optional, not graded

Undergrad Exams (3, including Final Exam): 60% - 20% each exam

- Weekly Assignments: Students are required to complete the weekly assignments. The completed sheets must be posted to D2L by 2:30 pm on the class day.

- Weekly Presentations: Students will give presentations on pieces from the PML excel sheets, pieces assigned by Mr. Ausdemore, or in regard to the Weekly Assignments. Students should be prepared to give a 3-5-minute presentation to the class.

- Excel sheets: Students are required to complete the database information on the excel sheets. These will be emailed to students the week before the assignment is due. The completed sheets must be posted to D2L by 2:30 pm on the class day. Corrections to your work may or may not be required.

- *Optional* Research Presentation: Students are required to give a presentation on a topic of his/her choosing. Topics include specific composers, solos, method books, curriculum plans, percussion genres, etc.

- Exams: All exams, except the Final Exam will be take-home exams. Dr. Zator will send the exam and link to audio files to students by 11:59 pm on Thursday. They must be turned in to D2L, before 11:59 pm Friday. The Honor system will be used: DO NOT work with any of the other students in the class; exams should be taken individually and not as a group. The final exam will be cumulative and will occur on campus during Finals week.

Undergraduate exams will consist of short answers, fill in the blanks, multiple choice and matching questions.

Student Learning Outcomes – Graduate and Undergraduate

1. List significant composers of percussion music within the correct decade of 20th and 21st centuries in percussion music history;
2. Identify significant percussion compositions for snare drum, keyboard, percussion ensemble, multiple-percussion, timpani, and orchestral excerpts;
3. Discuss salient compositional styles, forms and appropriate performance practice with each major instrument discussed;
4. From percussion music currently on the UIL Prescribed Music List, place compositions within the correct decade of music history, identify the correct musical form and genre, and discuss the appropriate levels of technical and musical development for percussion students.

Student Learning Outcomes – Additional Graduate

1. Give an in-depth oral research presentation on a percussion composer, instrument, percussion genre or other percussion-related topic.
2. Provide in-depth information regarding composers and literature for all oral presentations.
3. Give oral presentations with extended uses of technology.

Materials needed:

- PAS Membership
- Computer Software: Google Sheets

Additional Recommended Materials:

The Percussionist's Art: Same Bed, Different Dreams, Steven Schick

Keiko Abe- A Virtuoso's Life: Her Musical Career and the Evolution of the Concert Marimba, Rebecca Kite

The Cambridge Companion to Percussion, Russell Hartenberger

Encyclopedia of Percussion, 2nd Edition; Edited by John H. Beck

SCHEDULE

(Subject to change)

- 1/15** Explanation of syllabus & assignment procedures
- 1/22** Snare Drum/Snare Drum Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
- 1/29** Marimba/Keyboard Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
- 2/5** Percussion Ensemble Literature Part One
- 2/12** *No Class - TMEA*
- 2/19** Percussion Ensemble Literature Part Two (**tentative- JA clinic at ASBOA**)
- 2/26** Percussion Ensembles on PML (Class I, II & III)
Research Presentation Topic proposals due
- 3/1** *Exam ONE – online (due by midnight on 3/1)*
- 3/5** Timpani/Duff vs. Goodman timpani schools/Timpani Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)

- 3/12 **No Class – Spring Break**
- 3/19 Timpani/Duff vs. Goodman timpani schools/Timpani Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
- 3/26 Multiple Percussion/Multiple Percussion Solos on PML (Class I, II & III)
Research Presentation Topic confirmed
- 4/2 Orchestral Literature Part One
- 4/9 Orchestral Literature Part Two
- 4/11 **Exam TWO – online (due by midnight on 4/12)**
- 4/16 **No Class- JA judging WGI World Championships**
- 4/23 Percussion Method Books Survey
- 4/30 New Compositions Research – Percussive Notes Reviews
 Review Past PML Submissions
 Research Project Presentations
- 5/7 **TBA Final Exam- cumulative**

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

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 Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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

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:

[UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Waters Library-Room 162 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

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

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 Tx 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 Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry concealed handguns 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.

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