

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
Department of Music

MUS 135.1 / **BEGINNING PERCUSSION TECHNIQUES**
Spring 2014

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:10 to 2:00 PM, Foy Hall Auditorium
Instructor: Mr. Steven Mathiesen, Room 111, Foy Hall, office hours by appointment
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Required Materials

- Breithaupt: *The Complete Percussionist, 2nd Edition* (bookstore)
- Mathiesen: *Percussion Techniques Through Ensemble Playing* (bookstore)
- Snare Drum Sticks – Vic Firth SD1 (bookstore)

Goals

- To develop instructional skills on percussion instruments through the learning of basic performance skills.
- To develop a concept of good percussion tone quality.
- To compile a bibliography of instructional and reference material.
- To learn maintenance procedures.

Required Activities

- Attendance in class and participation in lectures, discussions & class practice of percussion techniques.
- For best results, 30 minutes of daily practice is recommended. Snare drum skills may be practiced in any location. Students may use Foy 113 or the Foy stage for keyboard percussion and timpani practice.
- Read and prepare the material on the list shown on the accompanying *OUTLINE & ASSIGNMENTS* table.

Assessment

- There will be three playing exams. The average score of the playing tests will form 50% of the final grade. There will also be two written exams. The average score of the written tests will form 50% of the final grade.
- Examination Dates
 - 1st playing examination: *February 3, 2014 - in class*
 - 2nd playing examination: *February 26, 2014 - by appointment*
 - 1st written examination: *February 26, 2014 - in class*
 - 3rd playing examination: *April 23, 2014 - by appointment*
 - 2nd written examination: *Monday, April 28, 2013 – according to final exam schedule or at another mutually agreed upon time.*
- Examination Content
 - Material is derived from class lectures and reading assignments.
 - Written exams contain multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.
 - Playing exam grades will be calculated from the correct number of beats performed and from correct execution of scales and correct tuning of timpani. Repertoire will be given at least one class in advance.

Attendance & other course policies

- Students are permitted one unexcused absence without penalty. Beyond that, the final semester grade will be reduced by one degree (i.e. B+ to B, etc.) beginning with the second unexcused absence or accumulated lateness. Students are responsible for providing bona fide documentation to the instructor if there is a valid reason for an absence.
- Punctual attendance is expected at all class sessions. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. Students who are not present at that time will be marked as being absent. Students who arrive late are responsible for seeing the instructor after class to make sure that they are included in the roll. If there is a legitimate reason for the lateness, you must speak to the instructor immediately after that class session.
- Attendance at examinations is mandatory.
- An atmosphere conducive to learning must prevail. Smoking, eating, drinking, cellular phone usage and the use of other electronic devices is prohibited. Recording of lectures is not permitted.
- This syllabus is subject to change should conditions warrant.
- It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining the grades for all assignments.

Statement on Students with Disabilities

- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the assistant director of Academic and Disability Support in the Academic Support Center, Monocacy Hall, lower level (extension 7625). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.