

Iowa State University

Percussion Studio Syllabus

2012-2013

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ISU Percussion Studio Syllabus 2012-2013

(Applied Lessons, Percussion Ensemble, Weekly Seminar and General Recitals, Percussion Pedagogy, Jury/Recital and Continuation Exams, Grading, Studio Spaces, Make-up Lessons, Inventory, and more)

Introduction:

The purpose of this syllabus is to provide the percussion major with a resource for the expectations and goals of being a member of the percussion studio at Iowa State University. All percussion majors (BA in music and BM in performance, or music education) will be required to follow and adhere to the procedures and guidelines listed below. Consult a member of the ISU faculty if there are further questions regarding your degree plan and requirements.

Being a percussionist and a member of a percussion studio brings more responsibility than most music majors have. In addition to becoming proficient on a number of instruments and techniques, equipment maintenance and logistics play into your education as a percussion major. Take pride, have integrity, and be a leader at what you do.

Objectives:

The primary objective in studying percussion at Iowa State University is to become proficient and knowledgeable in the standard areas of contemporary percussion performance, education, history, literature, and technique; including solo, orchestral, chamber music, drum-set, and world percussion. Goals for each individual student will be set with Mr. Coley at the beginning of each semester in correspondence with the Applied Lesson Stratagem. No matter where you focus and interests take you (ie. marimba, drum-set, or marching percussion) all percussion students at ISU are required to study all instruments of the percussion family (snare drum, tambourine, marimba, vibraphone (contemporary and jazz), glockenspiel, timpani, drum-set, hand drums, slap stick, flexatone, train whistle, etc. etc.)

Applied Lessons:

All lessons are 50 minutes and it should be the student's goal to make the most of that time. You are required to get in 12 lessons for the semester, so you are allowed 2 freebies with no questions asked. However, in most cases you will have more than 12 in a semester...which is a good thing! Your lessons are a very important part of your time as a music major at ISU, be prepared, have questions, be excited to learn, and always try to give 150%. Mr. Coley will make every effort possible to begin and end lessons on time and keep interruptions to a minimum.

Make-up Lessons:

A 24-hour notice is required from a student that feels they need to cancel their normal lesson time (except for emergencies). Mr. Coley will be traveling throughout the year for concerts and other professional work and will have to schedule make-up lessons for these times. Please see the ISU Percussion Studio Schedule for these dates. If the student feels that they did not receive the total number of lessons required in a semester (12), see Mr. Coley to resolve the issue. Make-up lessons are not provide for a student who cancels because they feel they are not ready.

Weekly Seminar and General Recitals:

Weekly Seminar and General Recitals are there for the benefit of the music student. Take every opportunity to perform on these events. Weekly Seminar will meet on Tuesdays from 1:10-2:00 in either rm. 124 or the Recital Hall and attendance is mandatory. Each week there will be performers from the studio, percussion studio business discussed, selected topics on percussion playing discussed by Mr. Coley or guest artists, or listening sessions. **Treat this as a concert performance and all students are expected to perform on Seminar twice a semester.** General Recitals will meet on designated Thursdays at 1:10 in the Recital Hall and attendance is mandatory.

Concert and Recital Attendance:

Percussion majors are required to attend all percussion concerts and events on campus. This includes student and faculty recitals, percussion ensemble concerts, guest artist concerts, and major ensemble performances. These concerts are an extremely important part of your education! Be present. They also count towards your required 10 concerts each semester.

Percussion Ensemble:

See ISUPE syllabus.

Percussion Pedagogy and Literature Course:

Percussion Pedagogy and Literature Course will possibly be offered during the fall semester. All performance majors are required to take this course, and all other percussion majors are strongly suggested to take the course. This course will research and discuss the many varied techniques and methods of teaching percussion, through examining method books for all instruments, various philosophies, pedagogical percussion ensemble pieces, marching percussion, and solo music for all instruments. Continued research and discussion will be done in advanced solo and ensemble repertoire, as well as orchestral music. Listening sessions, weekly presentations,

method book reviews, and historical surveys will be a part of the assignments for this course. The course will also cover resume building, network strategies, building a freelance career, and other topics for being successful in the music field.

Jury/Recital and Continuation Exam:

Jury Exam-At the end of each semester, every percussion student will perform a jury performance exam in front of the percussion jury committee. Semester juries are 20 minutes and are designed to display your abilities and progress in the areas of percussion mentioned above under objectives. The jury should be approached as an audition and your presentation should be a concern.

- A binder should be obtained to record your practice log, notes from lessons and master classes, handouts from Mr. Coley and guest artists, and notes from percussion seminar class. This is also a great place to put notes/handouts from Percussion Pedagogy or Literature classes and Percussion Methods class. **This notebook will be reviewed at your jury time as part of your applied lesson grade.**
- **There will be 5 components to end of semester juries;** performance of selection(s) from the method books studied during the semester, one keyboard solo, one drum solo (Year 3 :: Semester 2 students are required to perform the multi-percussion solo they have composed), turn in percussion notebook described below, and sight-reading.
- **Please have one copy of your music and your percussion notebook for the panel at your jury. If sound playback is need during your jury please have the source set-up and functioning in advance of your performance time.**

Recital-Percussion majors are required to perform a solo recital during their senior year of study and are encouraged to perform one during their junior year (joint recitals with other music majors are an option during the 3rd year). Recital repertoire will be discussed and chosen with Mr. Coley. The recital will take the place of the jury for that semester.

Continuation Exam-At the end of the 4th semester of study in music, percussion students will undergo a major review examination in front of a music department continuation committee. The main objective of this exam is to determine your progress, status, and to make any recommendations concerning your continued study. Inquire well in advance in the main office about documents and requirements of setting up this exam. Dr. Shilling and Dr. David can answer any questions on this matter, and information can also be found online at the ISU Department of Music website.

Attendance:

Attendance is required at all percussion oriented classes and events; ie. applied lessons, large ensemble and ISUPE rehearsals and concerts, weekly seminar and general recitals, pedagogy and literature classes, make-up lessons, extra scheduled rehearsals,

and percussion oriented concerts). Failure to attend such classes and/or events will drastically affect the student's grade. Be present.

Grading (Applied Lessons, Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Lit./Pedagogy):

Grades will be determined by the student's progress over the course of the semester. Consistency and quality of lesson preparation, preparation for large ensembles or ISUPE, jury/recital and continuation exam preparation and presentation (when applicable), and attendance will effect the grade. Mr. Coley will keep a record of each lesson throughout the semester and students are encouraged to inquire about their progress in applied study at any time.

Music/Sticks/Mallets:

All percussion students should own or begin to own the following:

- concert snare and drum-set sticks
- timpani mallets (soft, medium, hard, wood)
- marimba mallets (sets of 4; soft, med., hard, other varieties and models)
- vibraphone mallets (sets of 4; med and hard, other varieties)
- xylophone and glockenspiel mallets (pairs; hard plastic, brass, varieties)
- bass drum and chime mallets (pairs)
- tambourine(s), triangle(s) w/ beaters, woodblock(s), cowbell(s), claves, castenets
- snare drum w/ stand and moongel/cloth/felt for muffling
- black towels (for stick/instrument trays)
- stick/mallet bag(s)
- Solo music and method books

See www.innovativepercussion.com for products and order from Steve Weiss Music, Percussion Source, or Columbus Pro Percussion online.

Percussion Studio Spaces:

The ISU Percussion Studio spaces are rms. 124, 104, 102, 102A, 041, and the drum-set module (basement level). Please keep these spaces organized and clean. The studio is large this year and the practice spaces are minimal. Don't waste time while practicing so others can get time on the instruments needed. For practicing snare drum and other smaller portable instruments an attempt should be made to find another space.

Instrument Inventory:

Regular attempts by the studio and Mr. Coley will be taken to check inventory. Inventory and organization will be done once a month and after large ensemble or ISUPE concerts.

Ensemble Set-up and Take-down:

Always be early to begin your set-up of instruments and sticks/mallets, always be smart about taking care of the studio equipment (take pride in what you do and in ISU), and help others with moving equipment and keeping our studio spaces clean and organized. Return all equipment to its proper space after each rehearsal or practice session.

Ensemble Section Leader Responsibilities:

Ensemble Section Leaders should assign parts to section when needed. Make sure all instruments are available and attainable for rehearsals and concerts. Relay any pertinent information to Mr. Coley about problems, progress, and needs of the section. Communicate with conductors about needs of the section. And, see that all equipment is properly stored to its designated area.