

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES • DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & THEATRE

SPRING SEMESTER 2024

MUSIC 355 Instrumental Techniques: Percussion (1 CREDIT)

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-11:50am
Music Hall Rm. 102

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Office Hours: as posted or by appointment
606-213-0348

COURSE SYLLABUS

Catalog Course Description

Prerequisite: Instrumental music education majors: concurrent enrollment in MUSIC 358B

Course Objectives

The world of percussion is vast and the family of instruments that are considered mainstream continues to grow, due to the accessibility of world culture and its art and music in an increasingly available global network. This course will provide the student with perspectives and resources for teaching instrumental techniques to the beginning percussionist on snare drum, keyboard percussion, timpani, accessory percussion, drum set, and Latin percussion. Additionally, an understanding of professional-level sound quality and the fundamentals of producing those sounds is a primary goal.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this music education course, students will:

- Be able to understand and use basic skill sets in teaching percussion
- Perform at a beginning level on all instruments required in this class.
- Identify the primary percussion instrument families and possess a foundational understanding of these percussion instruments and how to play them correctly
- Understand and write arrangements that are age and developmentally appropriate for learners on diverse percussion instruments.
- Understand and use practical and appropriate methodology to teach student percussionists at all levels.
- Discuss the major texts used for beginning percussion methods.
- Learn and use appropriate pedagogical techniques to effectively teach students how to play an array of percussion instruments at varying levels of difficulty
- Be able to correctly analyze and diagnose problems associated with someone else playing the major instruments.

Course Materials

- Percussion Methods Etude Course Pack (from Copyworks)
- 1 pair of Concert Snare sticks (Reiman Music, Guitar Center, Online retailers)
- Practice Pad (Reiman Music, Guitar Center, Online retailers)
- Drumset Practice Room Key borrowed from Dr. Sharp

Attendance Policy

Students receive credit for class participation and performance assessment during each class meeting. With the proper documentation students will be given credit for excused absences (death in the immediate family, serious illness, or other university approved excuse). Students should be cautious of symptoms and possible exposure to

COVID-19, and they must communicate with the instructor and use Canvas to keep up with class progress and assignments.

Concert Attendance

Students are expected to attend at least one on-campus concert percussion event. These can include the ISU Percussion Ensemble Concert, Honor Percussion Ensemble Concert, or a junior/senior percussion recital (I'll provide dates of these events to you, if needed). Following the concert performance, each student will write a 2-3 paragraph paper commenting on what you saw and heard. Comment on any music and performance aspects – sound quality, unique techniques or sound colors, works you enjoyed and why, etc...

Vic Firth Percussion 101 Videos

Students are required to watch instructional videos on the topics listed in the syllabus. These instructional videos contain very valuable information and will offer a deeper resource to the student/future educator in percussion instruction. The videos can be found at <https://vicfirth.zildjian.com/education/percussion-101.html>.

Sequence Written Exams

This course is divided into three main sequences: (1) Drumset/Mallet-Keyboard/Accessories, (2) Snare Drum/Concert BD/Concert Toms, and (3) Timpani/Multi-Percussion/Instrument Substitution/Suspended Metals. Each sequence will conclude with an in-class study guide/review, and then an online written exam found in the individual instruments' instruction pages here: <https://vicfirth.zildjian.com/education/percussion-101.html>. Full credit (100 pts) will be earned for each "sequence written exam" by submitting a certificate of completion for each quiz. The quiz certificate must be 80% or higher, which will earn the full 100 pts.

Grading Description

Students are expected to participate in class discussions/oral quizzes as well as prepare the performance assignments for each class. Performance Assessment/Class Participation will be evaluated during each class period. A maximum of 10 points can be earned during each class (based on preparation, quality of work, and effort). If a student is absent no Class Participation/Playing points can be earned for that class period.

The criteria for compiling the Final Grade will be as follows:

- Performance Assessment/Class Participation: 270 points (10 points each, maximum)
- Attendance at one on-campus Percussion Event, including writeup: 100 points
- Sequence Written Exams: 300 points (100 points for each sequence)
- Drumset, Snare, & Tambourine Playing "Exams": 150 points (50 points each)
- Final Exam: 200 points

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 92-100%	C = 72-77%
A- = 90-91%	C- = 70-71%
B+ = 88-89%	D+ = 68-69%
B = 82-87%	D = 62-67%
B- = 80-81%	D- = 60-61%
C+ = 78-79%	F = below 60

Academic Dishonesty

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Free Expression

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a

diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Disability Accommodation

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. All students requesting accommodations are required to meet with staff in Student Disability Resources (SDR) to establish eligibility. A Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form will be provided to eligible students. The provision of reasonable accommodations in this course will be arranged after timely delivery of the SAAR form to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver completed SAAR forms as early in the semester as possible. SDR, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.dso.iastate.edu/dr/. Contact SDR by e-mail at disabilityresources@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

Harassment and Discrimination

Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

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