

*University of Texas at Tyler– School of Music*  
*Syllabus Fall 2025*

**Percussion Methods MUSI 3135**  
**Fall Semester 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Tyree Hastings
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Office: FAC 2220
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF
Meeting Time: T/TH 2pm-2:55pm or 3pm-3:55pm in FAC 2007

**Materials:**

- Snare Drum Sticks: Vic Firth SD1 General or Innovative Percussion IP-KW \$12-15
- Drum Pad: Evans, HQ, or Vic Firth pads recommended. \$25-60

If you would like a different pad, please ask me before purchasing. I want to make sure you get a decent one 😊

**Course Description:**

The primary purpose of this course is to provide music education majors with basic information concerning teaching methods and performance techniques for musical instruments common to the percussion family. Students will follow a course of study that enables them to teach beginning students at the elementary or secondary school levels and continue to provide them with an accepted, organized approach to learning and developing percussion techniques and skills.

This course of study is designed to acquaint students with the history of each major instrument found in the percussion family, their acoustical properties and methods of sound production, and the idiosyncrasies of percussion music notation. It will provide future music educators with a rudimentary technique on many of the instruments labeled percussion, concentrating on those that are most common to today's elementary, middle, and high school band and orchestra literature.

**Course Goals:**

Through full participation in this course, students will have the capacity to:

1. Demonstrate on each of the percussion instruments, either by written or performance tests, an accurate knowledge in the following areas of pedagogy:
  - Instrument assembly and care
  - Identify practical and acoustical ranges of the instruments
  - Common pedagogical classroom practices
2. Participate in a class instructional process designed to identify, diagnose, and prescribe common solutions to performance problems encountered by students.
3. Become familiar with the various brands of percussion instruments to adequately advise students and parents in the selection of instruments that will fit their budget.
4. Understand and possess methods to successfully meet the challenges of percussion education in the school music curriculum.

### Assignments/Descriptions:

Percussion Methods, Fall 2025	
<b>In-class teaching:</b> (100 pts)	Every student will be expected to teach a topic to the full class. You will have the opportunity to sign up for your topic and date at the beginning of the semester. Before teaching, you may choose to meet with me one on one to gain resources and techniques to help you succeed in front of the class. You will also be required to submit a lesson plan by midnight the day before you teach.
<b>Exams:</b> (300 pts) (3 total; 100 pts each)	<p>There will be three, equally weighted exams over the course of the semester. Each will cover specifics of pedagogy, techniques, instrument construction, and acoustic concepts about each instrument. Expect short answer questions and the request to discuss the pedagogical aspects of all instruments and concepts that are covered.</p> <p><b>Exam 1</b> will concern the snare drum and beginners. <b>Exam 2</b> is on keyboard percussion, timpani, and accessory instruments. <b>Exam 3</b> includes topics dealing with drum set, world percussion, and marching percussion.</p>
<b>Ensemble Direction:</b> (150 pts)	The last unit will include directing your peers in a short percussion ensemble piece. You will have the opportunity to select and prepare the score for rehearsal. You will then have 10 minutes to rehearse a section of the piece during the final.
<b>Budget Proposal:</b> (100 pts)	This will be a spreadsheet created by you that details a proposal for purchasing new instruments for a brand new high school. You will have \$35,000 to purchase instruments.
<b>Performance Review:</b> (50 pts)	<p>Attend a rehearsal and/or performance of a percussion ensemble. This can be at UT Tyler or a local public school. Each of you will then write a review of things you saw and learned with the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 12 point font</li><li>● double-spaced</li><li>● 1" margins</li></ul>
<b>Homework:</b> (300 pts)	

**Total = 1000 possible points**

**Grade Distribution:**

<b>A</b>	900 – 1000 points
<b>B</b>	800 – 899 points
<b>C</b>	700 – 799 points
<b>D</b>	600 – 699 points
<b>F</b>	0-599 points

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**Late Work:**

Late work will be accepted with a grade deduction of 5% during the week it is due, and 10% for each week after the due date. For example, an assignment due in week 2 will be deducted by 10% if it is turned in during week 3.

**Tentative Class Schedule:****Percussion Methods –Fall 2025**

<b><u>Week 1:</u></b> 8/25-8/29	8/26	Syllabus, and selecting beginning percussionists, Posture, Stick Anatomy
	8/28	Snare: Grip and Stroke Motion
<b><u>Week 2:</u></b> 9/1-9/5	9/2	Snare: Sticking Patterns and Stick Control
	9/4	Snare: Stroke Types and Accents and Rebounds
<b><u>Week 3:</u></b> 9/8-9/12	9/9	Snare: Parts and Maintenance
	9/11	Snare: Dynamics and Buzz Rolls
<b><u>Week 4:</u></b> 9/15-9/19	9/16	Snare: Rudimental Rolls and Check Patterns
	9/18	Snare: Embellishments and Notation
		<b>Exam 1 Due 9/21 by 11:59pm</b>
<b><u>Week 5:</u></b> 9/22-9/26	9/23	Mallets: Different Instruments, Care and Maintenance
	9/25	Mallets: Grip, Beating Spots, Stroke Motion
<b><u>Week 6:</u></b> 9/29-10/3	9/30	Mallets: Rolls, Sticking Choices, Intro to 4-mallets
	10/2	Mallets: 4-Mallets continued plus interpreting music
<b><u>Week 7:</u></b> 10/6-10/10	10/7	Timpani: Parts and Maintenance
	10/9	Timpani: Staccato and Legato strokes
<b><u>Week 8:</u></b> 10/13-10/17	10/14	Timpani: Rolls and Dampening
	10/16	Timpani: Tuning

<b><u>Week 9:</u></b> 10/20-10/24	10/21	Accessory Stations
	10/23	World Percussion: Understanding Styles
		<b>Exam 2 Due 10/26 11:59pm</b>
<b><u>Week 10:</u></b> 10/27-10/31	10/28	World Percussion: Hand Drums
	10/30	World Percussion: Accessory Stations
<b><u>Week 11:</u></b> 11/3-11/7	11/4	Drum Set: Parts, Maintenance, Notation
	11/6	Drum Set: Coordination Exercises
<b><u>Week 12:</u></b> 11/10-11/14	11/11	Drum-set: Styles and Reading
	11/13	PASIC No Class
<b><u>Week 13:</u></b> 11/17-11/21	11/18	Marching Percussion: Battery Instruments, Playing Together
	11/20	Marching Percussion: Marching Technique
	11/24-28	Thanksgiving Break
<b><u>Week 14:</u></b> 12/1-12/5	12/2	Marching Percussion: Pit and Electronics
	12/4	Percussion Ensemble
		<b>Exam 3 Due 12/7 11:59PM</b>
<b><u>Week 15:</u></b> 12/8-12/12	12/9	Final Exam 2PM-4PM
	12/11	Final Exam 3:30PM-5:30PM