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MUS 131A.01: Percussion Instruments in Class

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
DEPT. OF MUSIC

MUSIC 130(FALL) & 131(SPRING): "PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS IN CLASS"

Tues/Thurs 11:10-12:00pm, Room #1 (Music Bldg)

Instructor: Dr. Robert LedBetter

Office: Room #9 (Music Bldg)

Phone: 243-4819

Robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to study the percussion instruments with their corresponding techniques, acoustical properties, and pedagogical aspects. The key areas to be studied will include: snare drum, keyboard percussion, marching percussion, timpani, drum-set, accessories, and ethnic percussion. Class periods will include traditional lecture/demonstrations by the instructor and daily student participation on the various instruments. Students will need to spend time outside of class in related reading and practicing (primarily on practice pads).

AREAS COVERED: FALL

General Considerations
Percussion Techniques
Snare Drum
Marching Percussion
Keyboard Percussion

SPRING

Bass Drum/Cymbals/Accessories
Timpani
Drumset
Ethnic Percussion
Interpretation/Literature

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I. Required Text and Materials:

Text: Cook Gary. TEACHING PERCUSSION. New York: Schirmer Books
(at University Bookstore)

SD Method: Wylie, Kennan. Simple Steps to Successful Snare Drumming.
K. Wylie Publications, P.O. Box 117, 2221 Justin Rd., Suite 119,
Flower Mound, TX 75028 (Avail. At ESP Music)

Snare Drum Sticks: Vic Firth SD1 General sticks (also at ESP Music)

II. Attendance: Required. A maximum of 3 unexcused absences will be allowed per semester before final grade is affected. More than 3 will result in the lowering of the final grade by at least one letter grade.

III. Exams: Each semester will include a midterm and final written and playing exam

covering material assigned in the texts as well as content from the lectures. Each playing exam will be only on the snare drum due to the lack of accessible equipment on other instruments.

- IV. Grading: Each of the two exams will count equally (50%) toward the final grade each semester. Therefore, the playing exams are just as important as the written exams. Grading scale will follow the traditional percentage format of: 90%+ = A, 80%+ = B, 70%+ = C, 60%+ = D, and 59%- = F.
- V. Student must attend at least one approved percussion performance during each semester and write short essay on the performance (see list below).

BROAD GOALS OF THE COURSE

- 1) The student will demonstrate (through written and performance tests) an accurate knowledge in the following areas of pedagogy:
 - a) Instrument assembly and care
 - b) Proper grips, hand positions, and techniques
 - c) Appropriate sticks and mallets
 - d) Acoustical characteristics of each instrument as it affects tone production, tone quality
- 2) The student will identify practical and acoustical ranges of the instruments.
- 3) The student will participate in a class instructional process designed to identify, diagnose, and prescribe solutions to performance problems encountered by fellow students in the class.
- 4) The student will be able to choose graded materials and literature which will account for a systematic growth in the musical and technical development of their students.
- 5) The student will become familiar with the various brands of percussion instruments to adequately advise students and parents in selecting an instrument that will fit their budget and for school programs as well.
- 6) The student will be able to better grasp the importance of percussion in the public school curriculum and how to implement an effective percussion teaching program within the school system.

PERCUSSION PERFORMANCES (2005-2006)

Angie Biehl, Senior Percussion Recital
Fall Percussion Ensemble Concert

Thurs., Oct. 13, 2005, 7:30pm, MRH
Tues., Nov. 29, 2005, 7:30pm, UT

Dr. Robert LedBetter, Faculty Recital
UM World Percussion Concert
Cody Hollow/Chad Reep Jr. Recital
Spring Percussion Ensemble Concert

Tues., Feb. 7, 2006, 7:30pm, MRH
Fri., Feb. 24, 2006, 7:30pm, UT
Tues., Feb. 14, 2006, 7:30pm MRH
Fri., April 21, 2006, 7:30pm, UT