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MUSI 551.09: Major Performance - Percussion

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The University of Montana
School of Music

Music 551; Section 9: Performance Area - Percussion

Variable credit: 1-4 credits
Date and time arranged individually

Instructor: Dr. Robert LedBetter
Office: Room 9, Music Bldg.
Phone: 406/243-4819
robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description & Requirements:

Applied percussion lessons for graduate students majoring in music (Music Education, Performance or Composition). Number of credits vary depending upon major requirements. Students must take a minimum of 2 credits for an hour lesson. Performance majors receive 4 credits for an hour lesson. Lessons will focus on the study of music and technique on a variety of percussion instruments focusing on at least two areas each semester. Pedagogical approaches to teaching percussion will be taught for BME and BM majors.

Technical skills for artistic self-expression:

Students will cover the following materials:

- Recital literature (if required for degree) – on marimba, vibraphone, multiple percussion, timpani and optional literature in other areas including drumset, steel drums and other world percussion instruments.
- Orchestral excerpts
- Drumset
- Additional work in area of specialty

*Solo Literature on any of the following: 4 mallet vibraphone, 4 mallet marimba, timpani, multiple percussion, snare drum and drumset. Choice of instrument and literature will be chosen depending upon a variety of factors including a shared Junior Recital as well as a particular area of focus or interest for the individual student.

Performance skills:

Performance majors are required to perform in at least one departmental recital each semester. All other majors are required to perform in at least one departmental recital per year.

All Percussion Majors are also required to be in Percussion Ensemble and/or World Percussion Ensemble and one major ensemble (Symphonic Wind)

Ensemble, etc.). Percussion Ensemble meets the requirement for Chamber Ensemble for the BM and serves as a “lab” for teaching skills developed in the applied studio. Within the various ensembles, students will have leadership opportunities through running sectionals, serving as section leaders and through the Percussion Club (part of Associated Students of UM).

Attendance: Mandatory. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in the lowering of grade by one letter grade. Students must give notice if they cannot attend a lesson. Lessons missed by the student will not be made up unless excused by the instructor. Lessons missed by the instructor will be made up at a time convenient for both parties.

All Percussion Majors are required to attend all percussion-related performances during the school year, i.e. faculty and student recitals, concerts and special guest performances or clinics/masterclasses.

Jury: Every student enrolled in private lessons must perform a jury at the end of the semester. Juries are usually held the first day of Exam Week and sign up sheets are posted on the Brass/Percussion bulletin board one week prior.

MUSI 495 Jury requirements:

Solo literature on at least two of the following - marimba, vibraphone, timpani, snare drum, drumset
Sightreading on snare drum or mallets

*Masters recital is required for MM Performance Majors.

Representative literature:

Snare drum – 12 Etudes by Delecluse
Orchestral excerpts
Mallets – Velocities by Joseph Schwantner (marimba)
Looking Back by David Friedman (vibraphone)
Timpani – Concerto for Timpani by William Kraft
Multiple percussion – EDGE-Corrugated Box by Bruce Hamilton
Drumset – The Jazz Drummer’s Workshop by John Riley

Grading Policy:

The final semester grade will be a compilation of the following: lesson attendance, departmental recital performance, weekly lesson grade, jury grade as well as attitude and effort.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321